

## THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

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TOP JOBS SECTION 3

Imran greets verdict with 'I am overjoyed'

## £400,000 libel costs for Lamb and Botham

By TIM JONES

IAN BOTHAM and Allan Lamb were last night facing a bill of up to £400,000 after losing their libel case against the former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan.

The two former England stars were "astonished" by the jury's verdict on their claim that Imran called them cheats and racists. But both insisted that they had no regrets in bringing the case. "How can one regret it? I fought for my dignity and honesty," Botham said.

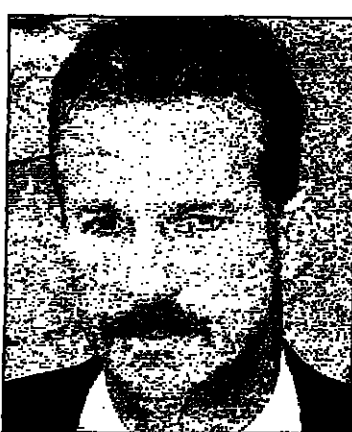
Imran, who said he would have been bankrupted had he lost the case, described the 13-day trial as a nightmare and a complete exercise of futility. "I feel very sorry for Ian Botham," he added.

The jury's majority verdict, after four-and-a-half hours of deliberation, came at the end of a trial that had seen a host of cricket stars and pundits dissecting the vexed question of ball-tampering. Botham had claimed that Imran had accused him of cheating in an article in *The Sun* by suggesting that he interfered with the ball — something Botham said he had never done.

Botham and Lamb also sued over an article in *India Today*, in which they claimed Imran called them racists and attributed their strong line on ball-tampering to their lack of education, class and upbringing.

Imran, who denied libel, said he was misquoted and was trying only to defend himself after admitting that he had used a bottle-top to scratch the ball during a county match 15 years ago.

When the jury brought in its verdict, Botham stared in disbelief and cast a stony glance at Imran before looking quickly away. Imran wiped his face and grasped the wife of his pregnant wife, Jemima, who said: "We've done it." Afterward, Imran said: "I am over-



Botham: "I fought for my dignity and honesty"

joyed. I thank the Almighty that what I have been saying for two years has been vindicated. I have never called anyone a racist, an underclass or a cheat.

"I am also happy that the Pakistani cricketers have been vindicated because they have been called cheats throughout and I have written to the ICC (the International Cricket Council) to clear up the issue." He hoped that the council would now deal with what he described as "this awful issue of ball-tampering".

But Botham said he was confused by the verdict. Imran had withdrawn his claims of justification and had to admit he (Botham) was not a cheat. "That is why I found it confusing and many other people will find it confusing as well. But life goes on," Lamb also said that he was astonished, but added: "The jury has got to make its decision and you have to accept that. I don't think there are any implications to my reputation."

Some legal sources were estimat-

ing that the trial will have run up costs of about £500,000, most of which will have to be borne by Botham and Lamb — although Imran will have to pay something.

Botham said yesterday that the bill was the least of his worries — he would just have to take part in more "Beefy and Lamb" roadshows where the pair tour cricket clubs to entertain paying guests. His assets include a five-bedroom farmhouse in north Yorkshire and a cottage in Alderney. He is understood to have signed a contract with the *Daily Mirror* to tell his story.

Lamb is in the middle of a testimonial year with Northamptonshire, which could well give him £300,000. He also has a book coming out soon which will again air the ball-tampering issue.

Imran, whose father-in-law is the millionaire businessman Sir James Goldsmith, said last night that he would have been penniless had he lost the case. "Most of the money I had made from cricket I gave to the cancer hospital. The rest would have gone today. I would have been bankrupt."

He now wanted to return to Pakistan and work for his political group, the Justice Party. The case had been "a complete exercise of futility. I mean a ridiculous situation to be involved in when I have something much more important in Pakistan."

He said he had written to both Lamb and Botham saying there had been a misunderstanding and he had offered to write an open letter saying that he did not call them cheats or racists. "But I could not let them make me apologise for something I hadn't said. I would rather die than apologise for something I didn't do."

Intractable foes, page 4



Imran Khan with his wife Jemima after his victory. But he may still have to pay £100,000 costs

## Howard ready to overrule Tories on gun ban

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND RICHARD FORD

MICHAEL HOWARD is expected to override Conservative MPs' objections and ban private ownership of handguns if the Dunblane massacre inquiry says he should.

The Home Secretary has let it be known that he will bring forward a Bill to implement new gun controls should Lord Cullen — as seems inevitable — put forward proposals that require legislation. The Government expects his report in late September.

Other ministers also distanced themselves from the Commons Home Affairs Committee decision that a handgun ban would be impractical, while Labour MPs and the Dunblane families accused the six Conservatives on the committee of being scared of losing votes.

Ian Taylor, a spokesman for the families, said: "Who on earth do these Tories think they are? These MPs are prepared to stand in the way of a safer Britain just to help out their friends who enjoy shooting. It is sick."

And Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, said: "The select committee would have been better drawing their conclusions in the light of the Cullen report."

Although Mr Howard would face a Commons revolt among Conservative MPs, any move to impose a ban would be certain to be carried with Labour support. There would be exceptions to cover humane killing by farmers and vets, and safeguards for sportsmen. Ammunition would be allowed only on shooting ranges and guns would have to be disabled before being taken away.

The Dunblane killer, Thomas Hamilton, held his guns legally and MPs believe that even if Lord Cullen does not go

Continued on page 2, col 3

## Britain's teenage sailor has to settle for silver

FROM EDWARD GORMAN AND JOHN GOODBODY IN ATLANTA

BEN AINSLIE, Britain's youngest-ever Olympic yachtsman, saw his hopes of a gold medal in the Laser class dashed yesterday as both he and his rival, Robert Scheidt of Brazil, were disqualified from the last race after Scheidt lured him early over the starting line.

However, Ainslie, 19, secured the silver after an agonising wait to see if Peer Moberg of Norway, who was lying in third place overall, could snatch it from him by winning the race.

Tim Henman, the British hero at Wimbledon, and his partner Neil Broad are also assured of at least a silver

medal after reaching the finals of the men's tennis doubles. The pair defeated David Prinosil and Mark-Kevin Goellner of Germany 6-4, 3-6, 10-8 in the semi-final.

In another British success



There is a 24-hour stoppage - we apologise for any inconvenience

yesterday, Max Sciandri finished third in the men's cycling road race. In a three-way sprint at the end of the 139-mile event, Sciandri was edged out by Pascal Richard of Switzerland, the winner, and Rolf Sorenson of Denmark.

Kevin Hickey the technical officer of the British Olympic Association added to the controversy over the poor performances overall by the British team, saying: "We can get out all the excuses you like and throw in all the bad luck, but we are a mediocrity."

In athletics, Sonia O'Sullivan, Ireland's hope for a 1500-metre gold medal failed to qualify for the final because of diarrhoea. On a bleak day for the Irish, Marie McMahon, who finished 14th in a heat of the 5000 metres in 15mins.59.12secs was revealed to have failed a drugs test.

Reports, pages 40-42, 44

### Killer jailed

A family celebrated the end of an 18-year campaign for justice last night as a teenager's killer was jailed for life. Michael Brookes was convicted by an Old Bailey jury of the stabbing of Lynn Siddons. Brookes, 51, had blamed his stepson for the killing in 1978. Page 3

### Lottery criticism

Virginia Bottomley tried to head off fresh demands for the resignation of Peter Davis, the National Lottery regulator, after a Commons committee criticised him for taking free flights in America on the corporate aircraft of a firm that has a big stake in Camelot. Page 8

### £80m windfall

Fifty former British Rail managers and staff were yesterday celebrating an £80 million profit from selling Porterbrook, a train leasing company they acquired six months ago, to Stagecoach, the bus operator. Porterbrook leases out about a quarter of British Rail's former fleet of trains. Page 23

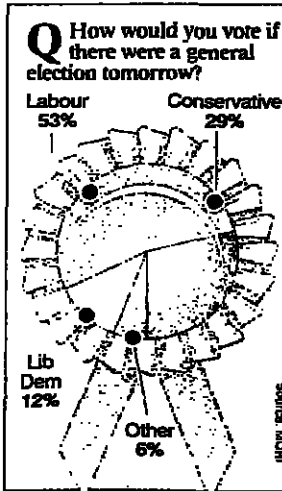
## Shadow Cabinet furore hits Blair

By PETER RIDDELL

TONY BLAIR'S personal approval rating has fallen to its lowest level since he was elected Labour leader two years ago, with a particularly sharp drop among his own party supporters, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*. This follows the row over the Shadow Cabinet elections and Mr Blair's handling of the subsequent reshuffle and demotion of Clare Short.

The poll, undertaken between the middle of last week and Sunday, confirms that Labour retains its commanding overall lead as the Tories have lost half the big gain they achieved during June.

Mr Blair's approval rating — measuring those satisfied and less satisfied with his performance — stands at plus 19 a month ago. His rating has fallen even more sharply among Labour supporters, from plus 57 to plus 44. This probably reflects concern



about his assertive leadership style and his treatment of Labour party critics.

His approval rating also fell a year ago when there was criticism of him by left-wing

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Lily the stink loses its 33-year reputation by a nose

By JANE MACQUITY WINE CORRESPONDENT

THE stinking lily of Kew Gardens finally came into flower yesterday, and proved a red herring. Its allegedly awful fishy smell was noticeable only by its almost complete absence.

The titan arum, which last flowered at Kew 33 years ago, is supposed to

have a nauseating stench of rotting fish or decaying human flesh so overpowering that in its native Indonesia it is known as the "corpse flower".

Yesterday, though, the overwhelming smell in the Princess of Wales Conservatory was of a sweaty public queueing on a hot July afternoon for a whiff of the plant.

Attendances at the Royal Botanic

Gardens had already trebled over normal expectations by Tuesday, and yesterday afternoon a queue stretched more than 70 yards. The titan arum displayed similar plant power in crowd-pulling when it last flowered in Kew in 1889, 1926 and 1963.

Once inside the conservatory no one was turning left as usually required to see the giant waterlily. Instead

everyone was making a bee-line for the titan arum whose Latin name, *amorphophallus titanum*, gives a clue to its most striking attribute.

With the 4ft-high primrose-yellow spadix rearing upward from the inflorescence's centre, the titan arum is assuredly no shrinking violet. But in the smell department it proved a non-

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# Gun law: Tories put themselves in firing line

## Weapon ban rebels feel full force of public fury

By ALICE THOMSON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

POLITICIANS from all sides were yesterday trying to puzzle out why six backbench Tory MPs had defied public opinion and refused to back a ban on handguns.

The six, who sit on the Home Affairs Select Committee, were vilified yesterday for blocking the ban in the face of pressure for action after the Dunblane massacre. They were accused of being "sick, unacceptable and disgusting".

Teachers complained and the father of a child killed by Thomas Hamilton said: "I hope they can live with themselves. They are living in a cocoon."

Some Tories were horrified that their colleagues were making the party look soft on crime. They had little sympathy for the MPs. None of the six — Sir Ivan Lawrence, David Ashby, Walter Sweeney, John Greenway, Dame Jill Knight and Warren Hawksley — are natural rebels.

David Mellor, the former Home Office Minister, said their decision had been profoundly damaging. "They are mistaken, and I think there is a serious danger now of the Conservative Party at all levels losing the plot on this very serious matter." Although some traditionalist or libertarian Tories backed their stance, none was prepared to say so publicly yesterday.

The backbenchers had no political pressure on them. Ever since Tony Blair and John Major visited Dunblane together, the massacre is meant to have been a non-partisan issue. But select committees are also expected to reach a consensus — and the six Tories used their majority to overrule five Labour MPs who supported a ban.

The parents of the 16 children killed in the massacre have all demanded a ban. 725,000 people have signed a petition for one, and Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, is known to be pressurising Cabinet colleagues to make space for a



Sweeney



Hawksley



Greenway



Ashby



Lawrence



Knight

Bill this autumn to ban handguns.

Four of the six Tories were on holiday or "staying with friends" and unavailable yesterday. Mr Greenway said that once the Tory MPs had looked at the issue dispassionately they realised a ban would be impractical. He accused his Labour colleagues of leaking the committee's report.

For three months police

officers, victims' parents and firearms instructors gave extensive evidence to the committee. The British Association of Shooting and Conservation, British Field Sports Association, National Pistol Association and the Muzzle Loaders Association all made representations for the 250,000 legal owners of handguns.

Mr Hawksley said he had come under no pressure from

the gun lobby. "I personally believe it would be tricky to ban guns. After all they are one of the oldest sports at the Olympics and some people do need to own one. Also there are so many illegal guns around from places like the Eastern bloc that a madman could easily get hold of one if he wanted anyway," he said.

The Labour members of the committee are furious but are not allowed to comment until the report is published later this month. One claimed: "The Tories were almost drooling over the gun lobby, none of them asked any difficult questions."

In a heated meeting last Wednesday, just before the report was finalised, the Labour MPs thought they could swing one or two of the Tories. "There was blood on the floor over this. But it became increasingly clear that they had made some sort of pact with each other to stick together," said a Labour MP.

Labour are now going to publish their own minority report. "The committee is so divided I don't know how we are going to meet up in October without coming to blows," one said.

Alun Michael, Labour home affairs spokesman, said yesterday: "I have no idea what was going on in the Tories' minds but it is bizarre that they all came to the same conclusion — the gun lobby must be congratulating themselves."

Meanwhile, the shooting lobby is fighting a defensive battle to focus attention on the individual seeking to use a gun rather than the weapon itself. Two major lobbying campaigns are mobilising support in preparation for the publication of Lord Cullen's report in the next few weeks and to influence MPs for legislation expected in the next session of Parliament.

The British Shooting Sports Council, which represents the UK's 900,000 shooters, has been discreetly lobbying MPs and the media during the last few weeks.

Magnus Linklater, page 16



Sir David Attenborough peers into the titan arum flower, the world's largest

## Lily the stink loses by a nose

Continued from page 1

Few who came to inhale its noxious odours were able to detect anything. I submitted the plant to a complete organoleptic analysis at close quarters, being permitted to put my head into the ruff formed by the creamy lime-green spathe. I detected faint scents, in waves, of fresh fish and an undertone of decaying meat. The smell was strongest just inside the blood-red rim of the spathe, when my nose was between the spathe and the phallic spadix.

Geoff Kite, researcher in plant chemistry at Kew, con-

firmed my findings. Using aroma collectors with absorbents to capture the scents for analysis in a gas chromatograph mass spectrometer, he has so far isolated two compounds, dimethyl disulphide and dimethyl trisulphide. Both chemicals are found in the putrescent stinkhorn fungus and the woodoo fly.

He confirmed the arum releases its odours in pulsing waves, the spadix heating up as white female flowers and pink male flowers become ready for pollination.

Derek Lewis, of Kew's press office, said: "For four days

people have been asking us when it is going to open. Now they are asking when it is going to smell?" There is still hope. David Attenborough says the male flowers only open on the second night, so the eagerly awaited pong may be more noticeable today.

In its native Sumatran rain forest, the flowers should be pollinated by beetles and sweat bees.

Yesterday Kew's specimen had attracted granny gardeners, eager children and keen horticulturists in droves — but from the insect world only a single small flying ant.

## Clinton praises loyalist ceasefire

By TOM RHODES  
AND NICHOLAS WATT

LOYALIST paramilitaries were praised by President Clinton yesterday for maintaining their 22-month ceasefire in the face of renewed IRA terrorism. In a statement on Northern Ireland, he called on the IRA to end its campaign of violence.

He also urged nationalists and loyalists to treat each other with "dignity and respect" during the rest of the marching season.

Mr Clinton has been under increasing pressure from nationalist supporters in Congress to press Whitehall to organise meetings with Sinn Féin. The Administration has remained resolutely behind both London and Dublin in its requirement that the IRA must decommission before joining talks.

Mr Clinton's call came as John Major and John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, spoke over the telephone about the next contentious loyalist parade, due in Londonderry on August 10.

The two leaders expressed their hope that nationalists and loyalists in the city would reach a local accommodation to avoid violence. A Downing Street spokesman described the 20-minute conversation as "entirely friendly".

The conversation was seen as an attempt by the two to mend fences after Mr Bruton launched a scathing attack on the Government last month over the Orange march through Drumcree.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, announced yesterday that Dr Peter North, QC, the vice chancellor of Oxford University, would chair the independent review which would examine contentious parades. The Government set up the review after the widespread disturbances throughout Northern Ireland last month after the stand-off at Drumcree.

Dr North, 59, said yesterday that he faced an important task. He will begin his work next month after the end of the marching season.

## Blair

Continued from page 1

MPs. It then recovered quickly, so the latest drop in his rating could also be temporary. Moreover, Mr Blair's overall public rating remains more favourable than that of John Major or Paddy Ashdown.

The voting-intention figures confirm Labour's strong overall position with at most nine months to go before the next election. Labour is now on 53 per cent, up one since late June. The Tories slipped two points during July to 29 per cent. This follows their four-point jump during June to 31 per cent, when there was much talk about the "feel-good" factor and the impact of England's early success in the Euro '96 football championship. The Liberal Democrats remain on 12 per cent.

There are signs of a gradual improvement in the Tory position, but it is very slow, and the party will have to achieve an unprecedented recovery if it is to win a fourth term.

MORI interviewed 1,928 adults at 149 ward sampling points between July 23 and 28. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (7 per cent) or who refused to say (3 per cent).

## You could win with Labour, Blair tells Olympic squad

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR promised that a Labour Government would go for gold yesterday after listening to a catalogue of complaints from top sportsmen by satellite link to Atlanta. He spoke as Britain looked likely to record its worst performance at an Olympics in more than 40 years.

Mr Blair said he would be setting up an urgent review to assist Britain's future Olympic hopefuls, promised to make sport a major national priority, and said that Britain under Labour could bring home the medals from the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur and the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

The Tories — who benefited in the polls from the English football team's success in Euro 96 — immediately accused Mr Blair of "cynical opportunism". They are worried that Britain's poor performance in Atlanta will weaken any new "feel-good" factor.

Addressing athletes from the British Olympic Association HQ in Wandsworth,

south London, the Labour leader said: "Sport is a national asset and an investment for the whole country." Mr Major was asked if he would like to take part in the link-up but declined.

Mr Blair was told by Dick Palmer, the BOA chairman who is due to meet Mr Major next week, that sport was "muddling through due to too few resources — we need at our disposal people like physiologists, scientists and nutritionists to be able to properly prepare and compete." Mr Blair said: "I think we need to be at the forefront of sporting prowess and achievement. The talent and desire has been undermined through 17 years of neglect."

Derek Casey, chief executive of the Sports Council, said: "We wholeheartedly agree with the comments coming out of Atlanta. The Sports Council believes that competitors representing their country should not suffer financially, and are determined to provide them with a new start."

The Conservatives said that more money would soon be available from the Lottery Sports Fund, which currently received £300 million a year, and was already dramatically improving sports facilities.

a way that I think isn't often appreciated."

Letters, page 17  
Sport, pages 39-42, 44

## THE MAIN OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

The struggle to tighten gun controls revolves around two key points: whether to impose a ban on possession of handguns or to introduce tougher restrictions on the issuing of licences for firearms. The options under discussion are:

**Ban on the private ownership of handguns:** About 57,000 people hold firearms certificates for 200,000 handguns. The Dunblane parents, Labour Party, Gun Control Network and some Chief Constables support total prohibition. The six Conservative members of the Home Affairs Select Committee, British Shooting Sports Council and Police Superintendents' Association oppose.

**Ban on handguns other than those chambered for .22 calibre or lower:** Would not affect British shooters' ability to take part in international sporting competitions. Backed by Dunblane parents, Labour Party, Gun Control Network and Chief Constables. Opposed by British Shooting Sports Council, umbrella organisation for 900,000 shooters. This option would remove from circulation about 90 per cent of handguns currently held legally.

**Tighter controls over issue of firearms certificates:** Obtaining information about applicant's medical history. Supported by the Chief Constables, shooting lobby, Home Affairs Select Committee, British Medical Association opposes: doctors would have to make judgments about a person's fitness to have guns.

**Refuses rather than counter-signatories on application for licence:** Backed by Chief Constables, Home Affairs Select Committee, Labour Party, shooting lobby and Police Superintendents' Association and Firearms Consultative Council, government's firearms watchdog.

**Sale of guns and ammunition to be restricted:** This would ban the advertising of guns and ammunition on a mail order basis. Supported by Labour, Gun Control Network, Dunblane parents. Opposed by shooting lobby.

**Ban on deactivated and replica weapons:** Backed by Labour and Gun Control Network, but opposed by shooting lobby. No evidence that properly deactivated weapons have ever been reactivated.

## Handgun ban

Continued from page 1

as far as a total ban there will be vastly tighter controls. An informed source said: "Anything that Lord Cullen recommends will carry huge weight. It will be very hard for us, having asked him to do the inquiry, to turn down anything he suggests."

A consensus has emerged on plans to take 90 per cent of the 200,000 handguns out of circulation, with chief constables and the Labour Party saying that guns should be used only for legal sport and that all pistols above .22 calibre be prohibited.

The row over the select committee's decision is a big embarrassment to ministers, and the thought of having to rely on Labour MPs to enforce a law and order measure fills them with dread.

But yesterday John Greenway, one of the six Tories, defended the decision, saying on BBC Radio 4's Today: "We took the view that it is not legally-held firearms that cause the problem in this country. It is the way that firearms certificates are issued where the law needs to be strengthened."

"While we entirely understood why people might want

to ban handguns in the light of Dunblane, you have got to sit down and look dispassionately at what that would mean, what the effect would be, and would it in all honesty prevent that kind of incident happening again in the future? We came to the balanced view that it would not."

The five Labour members on the committee are planning a minority report calling for a ban, and the party's home affairs spokesman, Alun Michael, said yesterday that the Tory MPs "must have taken leave of their senses".

The former Home Office minister David Mellor was also disappointed in his Tory colleagues. "I think they are mistaken, and I think there is a serious danger now of the Conservative Party at all levels losing the plot on this very serious matter," he said.

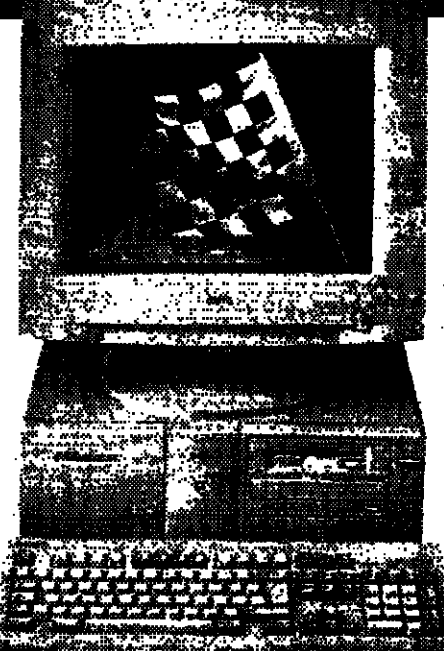
"There is no doubt the public wants a ban on handguns. What we are trying to take out are the heavy calibre handguns, the sort of Clint Eastwood type guns, which are an American accretion on our way of life."

"If we want to import the American way of life, we've got to come to terms with the American way of death."

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I have finally got justice, says grandmother who refused to let murderer live in peace

# Victim's family see killer jailed after 18-year fight

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

FAMILY celebrated the end of an 18-year campaign for justice last night as a teen-age killer was jailed for life. Lynn Siddons showed no emotion as an Old Bailey jury convicted him of the frenzied slaying of her grandmother, Florence Siddons, 81, who carried on a bitter campaign for justice for the killing in 1978. Lynn, 16, was tried and cleared of the murder in 1994. From then on, the girl's grandmother fought to put the right man in the dock, amid allegations of police errors and four refusals by the Director of Public Prosecutions.



Lynn Siddons with her grandmother, Florence

near-neighbour, but then claimed that his bullying stepfather instigated the killing and dealt the fatal blows before strangling her. The boy was acquitted by a jury in Nottingham after deliberations lasting 20 minutes. He said that his stepfather had a knife fixation, regularly stabbed pictures of women in men's magazines, and had threatened to murder his mother unless he lived Lynn into the woods.

Mrs Siddons and her daughter, Gail Halford—who had Lynn at 16—organised poster campaigns, marches to the local police station and a personal campaign against Brooks, who moved house to Peterborough and took on a different name to try to flee their attentions.

Attempts were made to have him charged, but the DPP refused to order a trial, on the grounds that Fitzroy was an accomplice and therefore potentially an unreliable witness, that Brooks's wife, Dot, could not be forced to give evidence against him and that other evidence was largely

hearsay. Derbyshire police, who lost clothing and a knife found buried in the garden of his former home, accepted criticism of the way they handled the case.

At times the family went beyond the law. In 1981, Lynn's aunt, Cynthia Smith, drove her car at Brooks and his wife in the street. She was convicted of reckless driving and fined £100.

The family kept the case in the headlines by lodging a claim for criminal compensation, which brought an offer of £27 from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. In 1984, Mrs Siddons lodged a complaint against Derbyshire police about their handling of the case, securing an investigation by the Merseyside Constabulary. This produced a two-part report recommending that an outside force should start a fresh murder enquiry, but Derbyshire refused to accept it.

The family wrote to newspapers and MPs, advertised for information and collected a petition with 6,000 signatures calling for the case to be reopened. Funds were partly raised by sponsored walks and bring-and-buy sales. Mrs Siddons called Brooks a murderer to his face in the street and at other times simply sat outside his house.

The campaign brought forward new witnesses who made statements after the civil case, alleging that Brooks had confided his involvement in the murder in a pub during his stepson's trial. After the High Court hearing, John Newing, Chief Constable of Derbyshire, said it did not reflect well on the investigation, which he admitted had been flawed.

H's accepted that Michael Brooks, who was interviewed



The family who never gave up: from left, Gail Halford, Florence Siddons and Lynn's aunt, Cynthia Smith

but released, should have been on the original charge sheet with his stepson. Police sources accept that they were too quickly convinced that Fitzroy Brooks was the sole perpetrator. Scene-of-crime searches were said not to have been as thorough as they should have been.

Brooks was charged with murder in 1992. It took a further four years of legal argument—which went as far as the House of Lords—before he was brought to trial. A spokesman for the Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday: "The CPS realised from the start of this prosecution in 1992 that a number of legal and evidential challenges would have to be met.

This has proved to be the case. Over the last four years, the CPS has kept the evidence under continuous review and has been satisfied that there was sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction and it was in the public interest to proceed."

Last night Mr Newing said: "I would like to pay tribute to Lynn's family. Her grandmother's courage and commitment have been remarkable. Without her it is unlikely this matter would have been brought before an Old Bailey jury. Justice has finally been done. The tragedy is that nothing is going to bring Lynn back."

Lawyers for Brooks said that they would appeal.

## THE LONG STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE

- April 3, 1978: Lynn Siddons stabbed and asphyxiated beside the Trent and Mersey Canal in Derbyshire.
- April 9: Body found by boys looking for a stick to throw for their dog.
- November 9: Fitzroy Brooks cleared by a jury of her murder.
- November 10: Lynn's grandmother, Florence Siddons, pledges to find her killer.
- June 1984: Mrs Siddons lodges complaint about Derbyshire police's handling of the murder inquiry, which is investigated by the Merseyside force.
- June 1985: Derbyshire rejects Merseyside's recommendation for a fresh investigation by an outside force.
- November 1989: High Court rules that family's civil action for damages cannot proceed because it is outside legal time limit.
- November 26, 1990: Court of Appeal rules that the action can go ahead.
- September 30, 1991: Mr Justice Rousley rules in the damages claim that Michael Brooks killed Lynn.
- December 11: The judge awards £10,000 damages against Brooks.
- September 26, 1995: Brooks is committed for trial.
- June 21, 1996: His trial for murder begins at the Old Bailey.

## Tabloids cleared of contempt in Knights coverage

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FIVE tabloid newspapers were cleared yesterday of prejudicing the trial of Geoffrey Knights, boyfriend of the East-Enders actress Gillian Taylor, in a test case which has serious repercussions for the law of contempt.

Mr Knights's trial for assault was halted by the judge last year after reports in the Daily Mail, the Daily Mirror, The Sun, the Daily Star and Today. The newspapers had commented on his violent past, including assaults on Taylor, who plays Kathy Mitchell in the television soap opera.

Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Smedley found that the stories were not prejudicial because Knights had been in the public eye for at least two years, with regular articles about his past including an assault on a policeman and another on a business partner.

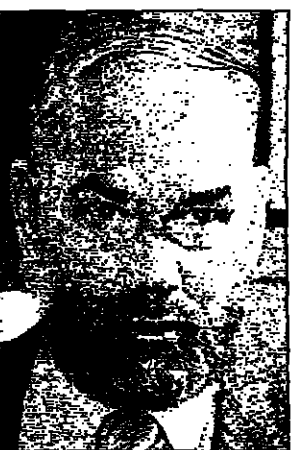
Lord Justice Schiemann said that, despite some exaggeration in the coverage of the injuries inflicted by Mr Knights, "it is difficult to see how any one of the publications in April and May of 1995 created any greater risk of serious prejudice than that which had already been created."

The Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, is expected to seek leave to challenge the decision in the House of Lords after being refused leave to appeal. Philip Havers, his counsel, said it set a dangerous precedent. Sir Nicholas brought the proceedings in a move to seek a clear definition of the increasingly blurred boundaries of the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

The judges ruled that in no individual case could a newspaper be found guilty of breaching the contempt laws. However, there can be prejudicial collective coverage, but the case highlighted the inadequacy of the law to tackle it.

Sir Nicholas has come under fire for not taking a robust enough line against newspapers and has faced judicial review proceedings for failure to act over press coverage. At the same time there has been increasing tension between the media's wish to publish and the law of contempt.

The proceedings against Mr Knight, who was charged with assaulting Miss Taylor's driver, Martin Davies, as he helped her to move out of their home, cannot be reinstated.



Michael Brooks: he put blame on timid stepson

## Clive Anderson takes chat from Channel 4 to the BBC

By CAROL MIDDLEY

CLIVE ANDERSON has defected from Channel 4 to BBC1 to present a new chat show hailed as a "major coup" in the corporation's £162 million autumn ratings battle with ITV.

His Trick Productions has sold his show, which ran for five years on Channel 4 as Clive Anderson Talks Back, to the BBC for a reported £500,000. The new version, Clive Anderson All Talk, is likely to run on Sunday evenings from October directly after the BBC's new £5 million drama Rhodes and its adaptation of Anne Brontë's The Tenant of Wildfell Hall.

Alan Ventob, the Controller of BBC1, said that Anderson's new format would retain many of the original features from his Channel 4 show but would have more surprises. "I think it's a coup for us because

he is a great talent. I have always been a big fan of his and this is the kind of show he should be doing for the BBC, for a mass audience."

Anderson, who attended yesterday's launch, insisted there had been no ill feeling with Channel 4. He remains with the station in a new series of Whose Line Is It Anyway? and is negotiating with him over other projects.

He said: "I hope they are not upset. It's not as though I have just done a show, been discovered then said, 'Thanks very much I'm running.'"

A Channel 4 spokesman said: "There is no bitterness, but it is difficult to see how the show can be much improved on."

Anderson's move to the BBC follows Channel 4's decision to drop Gaby Roslin's weekly chat show after bad reviews. Anderson said: "People have

been saying that the chat show is a dead form, but I do what I do and, if people want to watch, that's great."

BBC1 is relying on the eight-part Rhodes to lead its autumn schedule, which features 85 hours of new drama and 24 fresh comedy and variety shows. ITV has also placed heavy emphasis on drama in its schedules, with productions of Jane Austen's Emma and Daniel Defoe's Moll Flanders.

A record number of people tuned in for Linford Christie's ill-fated attempt to retain his Olympic gold medal in the 100 metres final on Sunday morning, the BBC said.

The 5.6 million viewers beat the previous highest for an early-morning broadcast: 4.2 million for Children in Need in 1992. Despite Christie's disqualification, three million were still watching at 2am.

## Pigs fly home to save their bacon

By NICHOLAS WATT

A GROUP of little piggies went to market yesterday to compete against each other in a 100-metre hurdle race. Hoggwash—named after the Agriculture Minister—Desert Pordick, Richard Dunpiggy and Lester Piggit were among those competing over five 12in hurdles at the Clogher Valley Agricultural Show in rural Co Tyrone.

Before the start of each race, the piggies, all less than eight weeks old, squealed as stewards ushered them into little cages. As they set off the theme tune from Rocky blared out of loudspeakers.

Lester Piggit won the first race to the delight of punters who had hoped it would emulate its namesake. But there was an even greater cheer when Mary Porkers, the porcine version of Ulster's most distinguished Olympian, sailed past Linford Christie Bacon to take the fifth

race. Walter Shortt, who organised the race, said: "The piggies really enjoyed themselves—they like getting out for a bit of sun."

The race organisers tried to ensure that the piggies were comfortable after protests from animal welfare groups. Electric fans cooled down them and an inspector from the Ulster Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals monitored the races.

Mr Shortt, who normally sells farm feed, trained the piggies for two days before the races. Asked the inevitable question, he said: "I really think pigs can fly. They were up in the air."

At the end of the races, the man from the Ulster Pork and Bacon Forum, which funded the race, made clear why the piggies had been put through their paces. Robert Overend, the forum's chairman, told the crowd: "These really are top-



Striking ahead: one of the piglets leads the field

class, healthy pigs. So when you are next sitting down to Sunday lunch, I want you to think of eating pork and bacon."

Richard Dunpiggy won the final of the competition last

night. The piggies' biggest prize was a reprieve—for the time being, at least. Mr Shortt said that they would be used for breeding.

Leading article, page 17

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Carman: master fixer

## Carman scores at cricket after last year's soccer own goal

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE CARMAN, QC, crowned his reputation as king of libel yesterday when he pulled off victory for Imran Khan in true master-fixer style. Lawyers had betted on a win for Botham and a loss for Mr Carman's client, a view that hardened after the ninth day of the case when Imran withdrew his ball-tampering allegation and apologised to the court.

"Usually when that happens,"

one libel solicitor said, "it indicates you are on the run." But true to form, silver-tongued Mr Carman defied the odds and secured a win which was as much wanted by himself as his client.

Had he lost, his reputation might have looked just a touch dented. Though rarely on the losing side, it was only last summer that he was offered a taste of defeat at the hands of Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, who defended Graham Southey in his libel action against *The People*. That was last in people's minds,

despite securing before that an unrivalled list of triumphs, for Elton John, Richard Branson, Jason Connery and Ken Dodd — to name a few. So the battle in court was just as much a contest between the top libel silks on each side — "Georgious" George, as he is known, and the smooth and brilliant Charles Gray — as between the cricketers.

Andrew Stephenson, of Peter Carter Ruck & Partners, said the jury verdict confirmed Mr Carman's standing at the libel bar.

"Carman's presence before a jury and his skills as an advocate were never really in doubt and this verdict has underlined it."

Cross-examination and putting over a point to the jury in a simple, down-to-earth way, are his particular skills. But early on in the trial, it seemed as though Botham had out-bowled him when he fielded Mr Carman's questions with wit and skill.

Mr Carman used his favoured tactic however of effectively exploiting every weakness in his oppo-

nent's case — with Botham, all aspects of his past life including sex and drugs. Why, he asked Botham, had the cricketer not sued over allegations in the past in the *News of the World*? The paper, Botham said, was "at the end of the day only the *News of the World*".

Mr Carman challenged him further, insisting that the paper had a higher circulation than *India Today*, in which Botham alleged Imran had libelled him. Not in India, Botham replied.

But last night Mr Carman's

rather greater advocacy experience had clearly paid off. His costs have totalled £500,000, even though Imran will not recover the considerable part of the costs — perhaps third — associated with the withdrawn allegation of tampering with the ball. Yesterday Imran said the costs would bankrupt him if he had lost.

Mr Carman's chambers had brief champagne celebration when he went home. "It has been exhausting two weeks," one of the clerks commented.

### Defeated pair face another tour

## Courtroom conflict that neither side thought of losing

By IVO TENNANT

IT SAYS much about the intractable natures of Imran Khan, Ian Botham and Allan Lamb that none of them began their High Court contretemps in a position which they could afford to lose. They had never contemplated defeat on the cricket field and they did not countenance it now. Only this time the man of the match award had different implications.

A fellow fast bowler once memorably declared that Imran was more interested in money than cricket — and more keen on women than either — but the reality for Botham and Lamb is that they came from a less affluent background. And their fathers-in-law do not have the resources of Sir James Goldsmith. They had a different upbringing.

One of the main grievances of Botham and Lamb was that they felt that the Oxford-educated Imran was looking down his aquiline nose at them. Not on the field of play, where they rarely had the better of each other, but off it. Ultimately we heard less of this in the High Court than of the complexities of ball-tampering. At the heart of the issue, though, were class, race and education.

Imran has long been rather sloppily described as having an aristocratic background. This is about as misleading

as describing Tottenham Hotspur as the aristocrats of English football. His forebears were not landed gentry but Pathans who were tribesmen. They did not partake of afternoon tea with one another. The first cousins traditionally hate each other: Imran, indeed, has not been on speaking terms with Majid Khan, who was also a great cricketer, since 1982.

Imran's fiercely anti-colonial father, Ikramulla Niazi, was an engineer living in Zaman Park, a well-to-do suburb of Lahore. He owns 400 acres of sugar cane, wheat and other crops, sited some distance from the city. Imran says his father did not know about the major public schools in England, entrusting his son's education to the Royal Grammar School in Worcester, a city that Imran soon found to be thoroughly dull.

That Imran went to Oxford — he gained an A and a C in his A-levels and was turned down by Cambridge, Majid's old university — owed much to his tutor at Keble College, Dr Paul Hayes, having a keen interest in admitting sportsmen. It was not, however, until after Imran had left with a second-class grade for politics and a third for economics, and had gained renown as a cricketer, that he began to socialise extensively in London. Good-looking and,

by 1982, captain of his country, he realised that he was often invited to parties to be displayed as a kind of trophy.

It is quite evident from Imran's choice of friends to which circles he likes to mix in. Oliver Gilmour, Lord Gilmour's son, Susannah Constantine, former girlfriend of Viscount Linley, and Mark Shand, brother of Camilla Parker-Bowles and best man at his wedding to Jemima Goldsmith, are but three examples. He has never dined alone with an English cricketer and abhors pubs. He could scarcely be more removed in such tastes from Botham and Lamb, who like nothing better than a drink with their teammates at close of play.

As to his personal finances, Imran owns a flat in South Kensington and lives with his wife on the top floor of his father's house in Pakistan. He has a modest income from journalism. His time in Lahore is spent at the cancer hospital he founded in honour of his mother, to which he has given about £200,000. He is also looking to further his political ambitions.

For Imran, there was the apparent safety net of the Goldsmith millions. Botham and Lamb will now have to rely on making money from articles for the tabloid press, books and tours of their two-man talk show.



Ian Botham, left, and Allan Lamb: race, class and education were at the heart of their ill-fated legal action against Imran Khan

## Wife who could win Imran a bigger victory

By JOANNA BALE

IMRAN KHAN paid tribute last night to his wife, who is expecting a baby, for her unstinting support throughout his 13-day libel hearing. Standing outside the High Court, he said: "I'm really happy with the way Jemima took this in her state because there was a tremendous amount of pressure on her."

A Pakistani journalist had even more praise: "She won it for Imran and she will probably win the election

for him too in Pakistan, despite being English. She has embraced Islam and will make a wonderful First Lady. This has been her finest hour so far."

The 22-year-old daughter of the businessman Sir James Goldsmith had been a constant presence by the side of the former Pakistan cricket captain, now an aspiring politician, often holding his hand and whispering words of encouragement.

Demure in traditional Muslim dress, she often took notes and consulted with lawyers on behalf of

her husband throughout the hearing. At one point, she was heard berating Imran in a corridor outside Court 13 after he admitted that he could not justify accusing Botham of ball-tampering and apologised to the former England captain during cross-examination by Botham's QC, Charles Gray. In court, her whispering sometimes met with a fierce "Sssh" from her husband.

As the jury returned its verdict yesterday, the couple sat close together holding hands, apparently awaiting

the worst. When the foreman told the court that they had found for the defendant, Imran and his wife looked as if they could hardly believe it. Imran looked stunned. It was only when his wife, swathed in a long purple dress, smiled at her husband and whispered "We've done it" that he began to beam.

The costs settled, the court rose, and Imran and his wife turned to congratulate their legal team. Botham and his co-plaintiff, Allan Lamb, and their wives sat in silence.

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There's a great deal going on

## Jet case verdict is hard to understand, says minister

By KATE ALDERSON

A MINISTER is seeking urgent talks with the Home Office and the Attorney-General after a jury in Liverpool cleared a group of women of causing £1.5 million damage to a British Aerospace Hawk jet destined for Indonesia.

Michael Jack, a Treasury Minister and MP for Fylde, Lancashire, said yesterday: "I, and I am sure many others, find this jury's decision difficult to understand. It would appear there is little question about who did this damage. For whatever reason that damage was done. It was just plain wrong."

The ramifications of the case are, however, very important in terms of future security, jobs and the question of being able to do damage and getting off with it."

On Tuesday, the jury at Liverpool Crown Court cleared Lotta Krumlind, 28, Andrea Needham, 30, and Joanna Wilson, 33, of causing criminal damage to the jet at a BAE factory at Warton, near Preston, in January. They and a fourth defendant, Angela Zelter, 45, were cleared of conspiring to damage the jet. The women admitted in

court to breaking into a hangar and using hammers to damage the £10 million plane. They pleaded not guilty to the charges, however, claiming their actions were justified. The jury accepted the women's claim that they had a lawful excuse to damage the aircraft because they were using reasonable force to prevent a greater crime. They said that by disarming the jet, one of a consignment of 24 bought by Indonesia, it could not be used in the crime of genocide against the civilian population in East Timor.

BAe later announced that it had served injunctions on the women to "prevent further interference with its business". However, at a news conference yesterday, the four women said hundreds of people, including themselves, would launch a private prosecution against BAE for aiding and abetting murder in East Timor.

The four women belong to a group called Seeds of Hope — East Timor Ploughshares, whose aim is to follow the biblical injunction to "beat swords into ploughshares".

The women admitted in

ons by peaceful means and takes responsibility for its actions by owning up to them. There have been 53 "Ploughshare" acts internationally since 1980: this was the third of its kind in Britain.

The focus of the women's campaign is the £500 million arms contract Britain signed with the Indonesian Government in 1993 involving the sale of 24 Hawk jets.

Ms Wilson, 33, said their decision to break into the BAE hangar was a last resort. She said campaigners had written to the police and the Government, asking them to prosecute BAE under the Genocide Act. They had held protests and presented evidence that the Hawks were being used in East Timor and export guidelines were being breached.

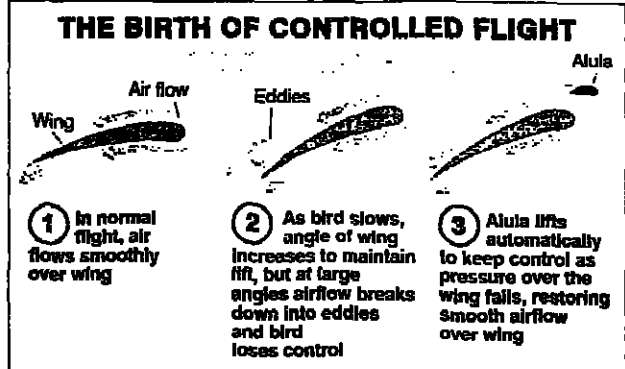
British Aerospace said on Tuesday that it operated in accordance with export licences granted by the Government. The company said in a statement: "In addition, BAE has no evidence that Hawk aircraft are being used in a manner contrary to assurances provided by the Indonesian Government to the British Government."

## Missing link in flying history

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

A FOSSIL of the first bird with variable-geometry wings, which lived 125 million years ago, has been discovered in central Spain, filling a gap in the evolution of flight. Like aircraft and its modern counterparts, the bird, which was about the size of a goldfinch, had a flap called an alula in the leading edge of its wings. At slow speeds, the alula opens to create a "slot" through which the air flows to prevent stalling.

This means that the bird, named *Eoalulavis hoyasi* by its Spanish and American discoverers, could control itself precisely and accurately at low speeds, coming in to land on the branch of a tree. The ancestor of all birds,



*Archaeopteryx*, lacked this ability and was probably forced to make running landings on the ground.

The perfectly preserved fossil of the newly discovered bird was found in the Las Hoyas deposits at La Cueva in Cuenca province, which lies to the east of Madrid. It is

described in today's issue of *Nature* by the team which discovered it, led by Dr José Sanz of the Autonomous University of Madrid. The fossil is so perfect that the feathers and the contents of the bird's stomach, including particles from the shells of crustaceans, can be seen.

## New HIV strain poses threat in Britain

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

A STRAIN of the virus linked to Aids that may spread rapidly among heterosexuals has established itself in Britain.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has identified 10 men and 12 women it believes may be carrying a strain of the virus known as HIV-1 subtype E. This strain is responsible for a major epidemic among heterosexuals in Asia, where four million people are believed to have been infected with it over the past five years. The main source of the subtype is Thailand, where it has spread at enormous speed.

Last year a leading American Aids specialist, Dr Max Essex of the Harvard School of Public Health, gave a warning that the arrival of subtype E in the West could lead to a far more significant epidemic among heterosexuals than experienced so far. His experiments show that the subtype flourishes more readily in the cells that line the vagina, which may explain why it is easily spread by heterosexual intercourse.

Dr Barry Evans, an epidemiologist at the laboratory, says that experience in Belgium provides some reassurance. Studies have shown that all subtypes of HIV are present there, including E, but that a major heterosexual epidemic has not emerged.

"I wouldn't say this is completely reassuring," he said, "because of the test-tube experiments which suggest that subtype E may be more easily spread heterosexually. What we don't know is whether there are other factors that have affected the issue in Thailand."

### CORRECTION

Mr Dennis McIntyre is director of the annual Bram Stoker summer school (report, July 3). Mr Leslie Shepard is chairman of the Bram Stoker Society in Ireland.



Author arrested over SAS claims

Author arrested over SAS claims





Former Sports Minister stands to become fourth baron after 'very unhappy chapter'

# Judge throws out boys' claims to Moynihan title

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE "disreputable" life of the late Lord Moynihan was laid bare at the High Court yesterday in a judgment that crushed the claims of two women that their sons were heirs to his title. It cleared the way for his half-brother, the former Sports Minister Colin Moynihan, to inherit the title.

Sir Stephen Brown ruled that Lord Moynihan's divorce from his fourth wife, Editha, in 1990 was null and void. Lord Moynihan had even faked the death of her son, Andrew, as part of a "clear, deliberate and sustained deception" to marry through his divorce so that he could marry again. A DNA test showed that Andrew was not Lord Moynihan's son.

The ruling renders his subsequent marriage to Jinna Santiago invalid and means their son, Daniel, is illegitimate and unable to inherit. Jinna wept as Sir Stephen concluded that both Andrew and Daniel had been victims of "wicked selfishness".

The death of Anthony Patrick Andrew Cairnes Berkeley Moynihan in 1991 from a brain haemorrhage, aged 61, left a complex web of forged identities, bigamous marriages and fake documentation. Sir Stephen's 55-page judgment attempted to clear up the tangle of "lies and deceit" that surrounded the peer's marital affairs, but he admitted there were many questions raised by the case that he could not answer. "Speculation was rife and will continue."

What was clear was that Lord Moynihan's divorce from Editha, granted by Tunbridge Wells County Court in 1990, was obtained fraudulently. Lord Moynihan had deceived his own brother-in-law, the theatrical agent Charles Vance, who acted for him in the divorce, and duped an honest and conscientious solicitor, Christopher Russell.

The peer, who had taken up residence in the Philippines in 1970 after a fleeing a string of fraud charges in England, married 20-year-old Editha



Colin Moynihan with his wife Gaynor-Louise

Ruben in Manila in February 1981. Eight years later, in March 1990, he filed a petition for divorce in England via Mr Russell.

He described himself on the petition as a "retired gentleman", gave his main place of residence as England and the address of his wife, who had moved out, as his own address so that any correspondence to her from the court could be intercepted. When the court received the divorce papers from Editha's questions were answered using a typewriter and only her signature was handwritten. Experts had found that they were almost certainly forgeries.

When Lord Moynihan was told that he would have to attend a divorce hearing with his wife to explain their provisions for Andrew, he faked the boy's death to hurry proceedings along. A notice of Andrew's death appeared in *The Times* on June 6, 1990. It read: On 24th May, in the Philippines, Andrew, the infant son and heir of Anthony, 3rd Baron Moynihan of Leeds, aged 15 months, died. The decree nisi was granted and, in December 1990, he married Jinna, who gave birth to Daniel in January 1991.

The judge said that Editha was astonished to find she had apparently been divorced, and even more astonished to hear about the untimely death of her son.

"A considerable number of lies and half-truths had been told," Sir Stephen said. "I have not referred in detail to all the suspicious and questionable moves which were made in order to achieve and pursue this divorce hearing. However I find that there was a clear deliberate and sustained deception of the court by Lord Moynihan."

The estimated £500,000 costs of the case are to be found from Lord Moynihan's estate. The question of the title, along with a £3,500 annual income, is likely to go before the Privileges Committee of the House of Lords and be settled in the next few months.

Outside the court, Colin Moynihan said the judgment made it more likely that he would inherit the title and he hoped that the issue would

have been treated very badly up until now. I have been called many names — a gold-digger — but I shall be getting what I worked for; I was the one who made it in the first place, not him."

Before he married Editha, Lord Moynihan had been married three times, to an actress, a belly dancer and a brothel owner. When he fled England for the Philippines in 1969, he faced 57 charges of fraudulent trading and false pretences.

His business affairs were as complex as his marital ones. The 1970s and 1980s took him from the narcotics trade to prostitution and fraud. At one stage he ran a brothel within 100 yards of the British Ambassador's residence.

He always considered himself the quintessential English peer. Mr Russell told the court that he saw himself as "the typical English gentleman". His epitaph is more likely to lie in the words of Sir Stephen, who described him as a "thoroughly dishonest rogue".



Jinna Santiago and her son Daniel. Her marriage to Lord Moynihan was invalid

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## Author arrested over SAS claims

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A BESTSELLING author who says that he was part of an SAS death squad in Northern Ireland in the 1970s was arrested by the Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday and held for questioning about claims made in his book.

The author, who used the pseudonym Paul Bruce when he wrote *The Nemesis File*, published last autumn, said that the squad killed more than 30 men between 1971 and 1972. He said that the bodies had been buried in deep woodland graves and that the first victims were unarmed IRA suspects.

Yesterday he was arrested at dawn at his flat in the West Country by RUC officers. John Blake, publisher of *The Nemesis File*, said that he was detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and flown from Heathrow to Belfast.

The publisher also said that the officers seized the manuscript of the paperback edition

of the book, which is coming out in September. It has a new chapter, which includes an interview with a former army intelligence officer, Captain Fred Holroyd. Mr Holroyd has made many allegations in the past about covert activities by the British authorities in Ulster.

Yesterday a spokesman for the RUC confirmed the arrest. He would not confirm the real name of the author.

The RUC denied a claim by Mr Blake that the author had previously volunteered to help the force, which has been investigating the allegations in the book since it was published last year.

Mr Blake denounced the arrest as melodramatic. "He was always available for the RUC but they never took up the offer, yet now they enter his flat when he's asleep and arrest him."

He said that the book had sold nearly 100,000 copies and was in the top ten bestsellers for more than three months. When it was published, the allegations about the killings were dismissed by the Ministry of Defence and were treated sceptically by the RUC.

Republican sources in Northern Ireland cast doubt on the claims, suggesting that the disappearance of 30 men, many of them alleged IRA suspects, would not have gone unnoticed.

However, Mr Blake and his author continued to vouch for the book's authenticity and expect the paperback version to renew the controversy.

Books, pages 34, 35



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# Villiers daughter wins court battle with Rolls-Royce

By Robin Young

THE blind daughter of a renowned car engineer won damages of £160,000 against Rolls-Royce yesterday in a legal action begun by her late father.

Janie Villiers successfully concluded an action for breach of contract started by Amherst Villiers in 1991. Mr Villiers fell down stairs at his home after the third day of the original trial and died of cancer before his cross-examination could be completed.

The dispute concerned Rolls-Royce's failure to realise his dream of transforming a 1937 Phantom III into "the most fabulous Rolls-Royce", a turbo-charged "super-Rolls" dedicated to the memory of his friend, Sir Henry Royce.

Although the company agreed to do the work on the car, it was never completed. Yesterday in the High Court Judge Prosser, QC, said that

Rolls-Royce could have settled Mr Villiers's subsequent legal action at any time, but had chosen instead to "brazen it out and fight tooth and nail".

Counsel for Miss Villiers told the court that it was a David versus Goliath case "in which the company behaved with utter arrogance against a sick old man who was dying".

Mr Villiers, who developed Sir Malcolm Campbell's land-speed record-winning *Bluebird*, powered racing cars for Graham Hill and contributed to American space research, attracted Royce's attention when he supercharged a Phantom I in 1926. He subsequently established an international reputation as "Mr Supercharger", but was in his eighties when he conceived the idea of supercharging the Phantom III.

Delivering judgment yesterday after a 15-day hearing,

Judge Prosser said that Richard Perry, former chairman and chief executive of Rolls-Royce, had agreed that Rolls-Royce would complete the work to *concoct* condition and deliver the car "in perfect working order, free of charge" in return for the right to use it for publicity. But when Mr Villiers sought to have the work completed he was told that he would have to pay for it himself.

The judge, who disclosed during the hearing that he was a Bentley owner, said his inspection of the car had convinced him that much of the work Rolls-Royce had carried out was "well below standard". Mr Villiers had taken him for a drive in it.

Rivets could be seen through the paintwork and chromium, the pantrons had been put on the wrong way round and the trim was substandard throughout. He found that the steering box made a "horrible noise" when turning from left to right and the turbochargers that were the principle object of the exercise had never been fitted.

The judge cited letters and memorandums in which Rolls-Royce executives wrote of trying to make the car "reasonably roadworthy" or "a runner". He said that he found such comments difficult to believe.

He said that the project to turbocharge the Phantom III was doomed once Michael Dunn was appointed head of engineering at Rolls-Royce. Mr Dunn had regarded Mr



Judge Prosser, a Bentley owner, after inspecting the disputed Rolls-Royce outside the High Court during the early stages of the case

Villiers as "a devious and difficult old man who would go to any lengths to get his own way" and did not believe the project could be of any value to Rolls-Royce.

The judge, however, said he had liked Mr Villiers and found him charming. Fixing the amount of damages, he said he could not assume that the car would have been sold at the top of the market for £500,000, but he accepted that before and after the market

peak it might have fetched £200,000. From that he deducted £40,000, which might be the present value.

He said that he would not award additional damages because Mr Villiers had been deprived of enjoyment of the car. Mr Villiers, however, was "a legend in his own lifetime" who took joy in his efforts to "move the frontiers of mechanical power ever forward". Judge Prosser awarded the bulk of costs, estimated at

£500,000, against the company, and those incurred since the start of the trial on an indemnity basis, which signals disapproval of the defence. He said: "The company conducted its defence in an unbecoming way. I do not wish to use emotive words, but the case could have been settled at any time. Instead they brazened it out and fought tooth and nail."

Peter Irvin, for Miss Villiers, asked for interest on the

damages from the beginning of 1988, when Mr Villiers might have been expected to sell the car. He said: "This was a David versus Goliath case in which the company behaved with utter arrogance against a sick old man who was dying and actually died, and a daughter who is herself unwell."

The judge allowed interest for 3½ years, saying that some of the delays in the case were the plaintiff's fault. Michael

Silverleaf, QC, for Rolls-Royce, said the company might appeal.

Miss Villiers said: "I will consider appealing too. The car should have been worth £500,000. Rolls-Royce betrayed my father."

The shoddy way in which they dishonoured their contract proved what he said about them. He told me: "The pinstriped cowboys have got under the wire at Crewe", and he was right."



Amherst Villiers and his daughter, Janie

## Testosterone patches offered on NHS

By Dominic Kennedy

A TESTOSTERONE patch to restore libido and sexual performance becomes available on the National Health Service today despite fears that middle-aged men will demand it as a rejuvenation therapy.

The two-inch patch is designed to treat hypogonadism, which reduces production of sex hormones and affects 15,000 men in the United Kingdom, causing impotence, loss of sex drive, fatigue, muscle weakness and depression. Rich-

ard Foulds, medical director of SmithKline Beecham, which created the Andropatch, said that it should be used only for the correct medical purpose. Excessive testosterone has been linked to cancer and heart disease.

Two patches, attached to the skin nightly, mimic the natural pattern of testosterone release in the bloodstream. The treatment costs £1.60 a day.

Patches have already been used to treat cigarette addiction and travel sickness. Experts emphasise that the new patches

are not an aphrodisiac and cannot cure men whose hormone levels are normal but who may suffer impotence from other causes. "Sexual problems, stress, tiredness or marital disharmony are more commonly the main culprits," said Ian Banks, a general practitioner. Other men, aged 45 to 55, ask their GPs for testosterone to treat the "mid-life crisis" or andropause.

Hypogonadism can have serious effects, including brittle bones, mild anaemia and reduced sperm count.

## Psychopath stabbed landlady to death

A PSYCHOPATH who killed his landlady, the estranged wife of an eminent cancer scientist, was ordered to be detained indefinitely at a top security hospital yesterday.

Seven weeks after moving into Janice Symons's home in Leicester, Richard Burton, 32, stabbed her to death. When detectives asked why he had killed her, he said: "I don't know why, I just did."

Mr Justice Turner told Leicester Crown Court that Burton was a danger to the public and was likely to kill again if he was at large. He ordered his detention at Rampton hospital.

Mrs Symons, 59, had been forced to take in lodgers to make ends meet when her husband Martin, 69, a professor at Leicester University and a transvestite, left her after an affair with a post-graduate student.

The court was told that on May 11, 1995, Burton got up, fetched a knife from the kitchen and then sat on the stairs asking himself whether he should stab Mrs Symons: "Do I or don't I?"

He followed her around the house for a while before attacking her. He struck her on the head with a pestle and ignored her when she begged him not to kill her. As she struggled to escape, he stabbed her three times.

Burton, who worked at Leicester University, admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility after specialists agreed he had a severe psychopathic personality disorder.

After the sentence, Leicester Health Authority announced an independent inquiry into the case. The authority disclosed that Burton had been a "user of mental health services" in Leicester but declined to give details about the nature or length of his treatment.

## P is for passé as August car sales run out of road

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

THOUSANDS of motorists who drive out of showrooms today in cars sporting the new P plate could be the last buyers in the annual August registration bonanza.

More than 490,000 cars — nearly a quarter of all new vehicle sales this year — are expected to be bought this month, but the Government is ready to end the system at the insistence of the motor industry. The Department of Transport will issue a consultative document on its proposed changes within the next few weeks.

The industry wants a new system of quarterly registration letter changes, which could be in place by the end of this year, and would mean a new registration plate issued from January 1, followed by another in May, then July and September. However, a range of alternatives exist, including new plates which give more details of towns or counties, or even a form of personal plate, so each driver would be issued with a registration number with their licence and would carry it on to each car they owned.

Whatever the decision, the August boom is doomed. Dealers have had to carry

three times more stock than usual over the past few weeks, hiring yards and fields to park new cars. While the one-month sale will be worth around £5.4 billion over four weeks, the extra effort of storage, coping with documentation and preparing vehicles is thought to cost more than £1 billion.

Ernie Thompson, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "This is the age of highly efficient manufacturing and highly efficient distribution, yet we are the only country where all these sales are compressed into just four weeks."

The year-letter registration was introduced to mark cars which were ready for MOT tests, and the letter was to change each January. Dealers complained that the system created a blip at a time when they could already sell cars and convinced the Government to move it to August, traditionally the quietest sales month.

In 1967, when the change was introduced, August accounted for fewer than 10 per cent of sales; now the month takes a quarter of the annual total.



Dealers say the annual change involves extra costs

## Homes on toxic site will have new garden

THOUSANDS of tons of soil are to be cleared from private gardens to protect children from lead pollution, after high toxic levels were found under 150 homes built on a disused rubbish tip.

The £1.3 million clean-up ordered by Oxford City Council follows a three-month investigation at Bertie Place and Abingdon Road, where workmen testing for subsidence found high levels of lead, arsenic and mercury.

Residents complained of nervous disorders, headaches, numbness and loss of appetite after being told that their 1930s homes were built on a tip. They were told to stop eating home-grown vegetables. Public health officials and experts from the National Environmental Technology Centre carried out tests on families.

It was concluded that the lead could affect the developing nervous system of young children if the soil was swallowed from dirty hands, but the mercury and arsenic were not believed to be a health risk to adults or children.

In a six-month operation, soil will now be removed from front and rear gardens and replaced with clean earth. Where all the soil cannot be removed because it is too close to foundations, it will be covered by patios and hardstanding.

A children's play area and recreation ground will be specially treated and doctors will continue to monitor residents' health. Richard Peacock, the housing director, said: "The results were not as bad as we first thought. We are seeking funding from the Government for the work."

Dr Dick Mayon White, a public health consultant, said: "No one has been found with any poisoning that requires treatment."

## Brent seeks to cast off its barmy name

By Ian Murray  
Community Correspondent

A COUNCIL that became synonymous with the "loony left" and corruption is considering changing its name to escape its image.

The London Borough of Brent is to poll residents and local businesses to find out if they want it to become known as the London Borough of Wembley and Willesden. Brent was created in 1965 by merging the two old authorities' areas. Council members have voted narrowly to pay for the poll as part of a consultation process "to do everything possible to shed its barmy image".

The motion was put forward by Paul Lorber, leader of the Liberal Democrat group, and won support from Labour and one of the Conservative members on the hung council. "During the Eighties

under Labour we became known as 'barmy Brent' and under the Tories we became known as Bent Council," Mr Lorber said yesterday. "That kind of thing is unhelpful in our efforts to attract investment to the borough at a time when authorities are having to compete against each other."

"The tags are unjustified but people remember them. If we change the name to link the borough with Wembley stadium, which has a worldwide reputation for excellence, it will change our image. If Wembley wins the competition to become the site for the new national stadium, it will be a golden opportunity that we should not miss."

The Conservative group, which controlled the borough for four years until last April, says the name change is nothing but a political gimmick. The group is to seek a judicial review of the

decision to investigate the idea. "The consultation process will cost £100,000 which we cannot afford," said Reg Colwill, the group's leader.

"If it went ahead it would cost at least £1 million in changing road signs, letter heads and that sort of thing. Council tax would have to go up by £11 a head just to pay for it."

Sir Rhodes Boyson, the Tory MP for Brent North — the Wembley area — said he liked the idea of reverting to the old names, but only if it meant splitting the borough into two authorities. "If this is a stepping stone to getting smaller authorities I am all for it," he said. "If it's just a publicity gimmick, it's a waste of money."

Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East, agreed that the authority should be split along the pre-1965 lines. "But if local people want a new name, that has to be up to them," he said.

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Bottomley fends off demands for regulator's resignation after Commons criticism

# Lottery watchdog 'made errors of judgment'

By Philip Webster and Jon Ashworth

THE National Heritage Secretary was standing by the National Lottery regulator last night after a Commons committee accused him of "serious errors of judgment".

Virginia Bottomley tried to head off fresh demands for the resignation of Peter Davis after the Public Accounts Committee criticised him for taking free flights in the United States two years ago on the corporate aircraft of GTEch, which has a big stake in the lottery operator Camelot. Mrs Bottomley, who allowed Mr Davis to remain after the allegations surfaced in December, repeated that, although he had been unwise to take the flights and accept hospitality from a New York businessman linked to GTEch, he retained her confidence as an effective regulator.

Last night one of the committee's members, Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West, said that Mr Davis should go, to restore public confidence in the position. "I am not accusing him of dishonesty or impropriety, but of a serious lack of judgment. He admitted to us that he had been told to be careful about taking any hospitality from the companies involved here, and yet he chose to ignore that advice."

Mr Williams said that, in a closed session of the committee, Mr Davis had admitted that he was well aware of the question marks over GTEch's reputation. Mr Williams said: "I told him that if he had said in open session, the press would have buried him."

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow National Heritage Secretary, supported the committee's conclusions. Labour has pledged "far-reaching" changes to the duties of the lottery regulator if it wins power.

Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrat heritage spokesman, called for a fresh appraisal of Camelot's profits in the light of the committee's findings that sales to the end of September 1995 were 70 per cent higher than forecast in its initial application.

The committee criticised Mr Davis's decision to accept hospitality from Carl Menges, a Wall Street financier and GTEch director, during a private visit to his home in October 1994. The MPs recognised that the friendship between the two men's wives had pre-dated the creation of the lottery. But they said: "We regard it as of vital importance that the director-general should be seen by the public to be completely impartial and at arm's length from the lottery



Branson: said profits would go to charity

operator, its shareholders and those with financial interests in them."

The MPs were "unimpressed" by Mr Davis's argument that he had accepted the free flights only after he had announced his decision to award the licence to Camelot. "In our view, the director-general's decisions to use GTEch corporate aircraft represented serious errors of judgment," the report said.

MPs criticised the way Mr Davis handled a complaint by Rainbow UK, which had originally pitched for the scratch-card licence. They were "concerned" that Mr Davis had not investigated the Rain-

bow allegations more thoroughly. Richard Wheatly, the former advertising executive who led the Rainbow bid, said Mr Davis had not been prepared to consider his rival scratch-card proposals.

The committee did not directly criticise Mr Davis's decision to award the lottery franchise to Camelot. The report noted that he selected Camelot because it was estimated that the company would contribute the most to the good causes. Mr Davis pointed out that, under the terms of the Act setting up the lottery, he had been unable to take into account the offer made by Mr Branson that his company UK Lotteries would donate all its profits to charity.

Mr Branson said yesterday that Mr Davis could and should have taken his offer into account. He said: "Market research showed more people would have played the lottery as a result and, therefore, not only would the charities have benefited more, but so would the Government's good causes fund."

Mr Davis, who is on holiday, could not be reached for comment. Camelot said the report highlighted its success in contributing more to good causes than any other candidate for the lottery licence.

Leading article, page 17



Peter Davis accepted free flights from GTEch, which has a stake in Camelot

## Millions in legal aid paid after lax checks

By Frances Gibb  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of pounds of taxpayers' money is being paid out in legal aid for criminal cases without proper checks, the National Audit Office said yesterday.

In its latest critical report on the granting of legal aid, the Office — the watchdog of Whitehall spending — found that in 40 per cent of cases where free legal aid was granted, court staff did not obtain proper evidence that the defendant was entitled to receive it.

Criminal legal aid, which is granted by magistrates' courts, cost £469 million in 1994-95. To qualify, a person must pass a means test and satisfy the court that it is in the interests of justice that they should have legal representation. Some 70 per cent of applicants are entitled to free legal aid (without the need to pay a contribution) because they receive income support, family credit or disability working allowance.

The Office found that although courts obtained some evidence that the applicant was receiving another benefit in 91 per cent of cases, it was adequate to confirm entitlement in only 54 per cent.

In some cases, free legal aid was awarded even though the local social security office had stated that a defendant was not entitled to receive it.

## MPs attack Birt's secretive reform of World Service

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

BBC chiefs were accused by MPs yesterday of adopting a "cavalier attitude" to restructuring changes which staff fear will threaten the future of the World Service.

In a report strongly critical of John Birt, the BBC Director-General, the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee concluded: "The manner in which these proposals appear to have been conceived, in some secrecy, and the apparent lack of consultation, is, in our opinion, regrettable, as it may have exacerbated staff opposition to the changes."

The report, brought out only two weeks after Mr Birt's troubled appearance before the committee when one MP accused him of acting like a tsar, sharply criticised him for failing to consult both the Foreign Office and the World Service itself about the changes. It called for a period of "detailed and open-minded consultation" between the Foreign Office, MPs, staff and management in order to analyse the impact of the changes.

It also proposed a new investigation by the National Audit Office into the expenditure of the World Service and its costs and benefits to the United Kingdom.

"We consider it a fundamental obligation of both the British Government and the BBC to ensure the World Service's international prima-

cy is maintained," the report said.

In June, the BBC announced wide-ranging restructuring to sever production from commissioning and scheduling in radio and television. The plan — agreed by Mr Birt, BBC chairman Sir Christopher Bland and the Board of Governors — means the World Service will commission its English language programmes, about 20 per cent of its output, from BBC Production or independent producers, and its news from BBC News. Some staff campaigned against the changes.

The committee said that it will seek regular progress reports from Mr Birt. "We are concerned to ensure that the unique quality of the BBC World Service is not lost in a vast new superstructure within which its needs and priorities are overlooked, or even disregarded."

The BBC welcomed the committee's endorsement of the World Service as a national asset and said Mr Birt and the Governors had repeatedly made clear their "absolute commitment" to it. The service retained its editorial and commissioning roles, and news programmes in English and other languages would be made by a "dedicated and integrated team" which would stay at Bush House until at least April 1998.

## Labour is preparing to avoid conflict of 1970s

By Philip Webster

REFORMS to the Labour Party structure to prevent a Blair government being undermined by internal conflict with activists were put to the leadership yesterday.

When Labour was last in Government its ruling body, the National Executive Committee, was frequently a source of tension. In the late 1970s the Bennite Left took control of the NEC and forced through changes such as the reselection of MPs.

Now Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary, has tabled plans to enable the NEC to develop a role that is "neither a pressure group on the government nor an alternative centre of power".

His *Party in Power* report says that he wants to encourage a new culture that "encourages democratic working through openness, and which turns the local party outward into its community" at constituency level. It questions whether the Labour leader and members of the Shadow



Sawyer: new culture

Cabinet should sit on the NEC. The paper also canvasses the idea of widening the representation on the NEC to include regional and local government. Although it does not say so much, the implication is that the number of trade union members would fall.

The party is almost certain to adopt new ideas from Mr Sawyer to reduce confrontation at the annual conference. One plan is that the traditional session of composing motions on the eve of the conference should be brought forward to achieve a "non-adversarial policy dialogue".

Marjorie Mowlam, an NEC member, said: "Previous Labour Governments have argued with the NEC and it's been unproductive... We've been out for a long time. We've got to be ready to take power."

Labour benefactor, page 15

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## Red alert to save native squirrel from extinction

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A LAST-DITCH attempt to save the native red squirrel from extinction in England and Wales was launched yesterday. Researchers gave it ten years unless urgent action was taken to defend it against its alien grey cousin.

Landowners, conservationists, government agencies and foresters are joining forces to put pressure on the advancing grey squirrels, which now number more than two million, and to boost numbers of red squirrels across the British Isles. More than £200,000 is being spent initially, with further funding coming from NPI, the pensions company.

Action plans are being drawn up for areas where red squirrels, estimated to number 160,000, survive. They include large areas of Scotland and pockets in England and Wales. Strategies developed after decades of research will be tailored for each area and will concentrate on providing food for red squirrels while shooting and poisoning grey squirrels using specially designed Warfarin-laced hoppers. A contraceptive drug to be put into grey squirrels' food is also being studied.

Foresters are being encouraged to take up the new Biodiversity Woodland Improvement Grants, which pay them to manage forests that encourage red squirrels and discourage grey squirrels.

The campaign will, it is hoped, end the fragmented attempts to save the red squirrel and orchestrate the drive on a national basis. Dr Pat Morris, an expert at the Mammal Society, said it was also vital to make sure that all government departments

worked in harmony so that conservation efforts were not undermined.

He said that even in areas such as the Isle of Wight and Formby in Lancashire, where red squirrels are clinging on, there was an increased likelihood of incursion by grey squirrels. On the Isle of Wight, where red squirrels have survived through isolation, a bridge to the mainland is proposed. In Formby, there are plans to plant a community forest of broad-leaved trees right up to the colony's edges. Research shows that deciduous trees act as bridgeheads for grey squirrels, allowing them to overwhelm red squirrel territory.

Dr Morris said such planning decisions by one government department needed to take into account actions by the Department of the Environment, which was trying to conserve the red squirrel.

Dr Tom Tew, of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), the Govern-

ment's wildlife advisers, said yesterday that even if a bridge was not built to the Isle of Wight, southern England's last red squirrels could be extinct in two years. "They could get over by hitching a ride on a ferry. There is always the threat of some unscrupulous person introducing them."

He added that, despite all their best efforts, the red squirrel might not survive under the onslaught from the more successful grey squirrels. "I do not know if this is going to work. But if the red squirrel does become extinct here, it will be a tragic loss of our natural history. But we are optimistic. Everyone has signed up to this. I hope when I take my grandson to see a red squirrel it will still be in a wood and not a zoo."

The Earl of Selborne, chairman of the JNCC, said that the strategy was aimed at tipping the balance in favour of red squirrels in those areas of England, Scotland and Wales where they survived. He added that saving the red squirrel, one of 116 British species named recently by the Government under its biodiversity action plan as in need of urgent conservation, was vital.

"Here in the western world we are often critical of the actions of less developed nations to conserve their natural flora and fauna," he said. "Sometimes we forget that action, like charity, should begin at home. Indeed, we sometimes forget that we have species like the red squirrel, which are endangered and disappearing from the woods right under our noses."



Red squirrel driven out by its grey cousin

## Take one plump grey, dip in batter and fry until golden

By Adam Fresco

NOT all the blame for the demise of the red squirrel can be laid at the door of Mr Brocklehurst, the Cheshire landowner who released a pair of North American grey squirrels into his garden as an exotic addition in 1876.

In 1902 a further 100 were released around Kingston Hill, Surrey. Why they were brought in is not quite clear, but they later became popular as food. It may not have the seasonal symbolism of lamb or turkey or the traditional taste of venison, but the grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) has joined the butcher's game racks.

"I prefer them fried, but you

can eat them anyway you like, really," says Jim Good, who runs a game shop in Sussex. "Whatever you can do with a chicken, you can do with a squirrel."

In the 1940s free cartridges were distributed to gun clubs which hunted the greys — officially classed as a pest — and a bounty of a shilling per tail was offered, with £100,000 being paid out by 1953.

Mr Good adds: "The way I like to do them is to skin and gut them, boil them for twenty minutes, dip them in breadcrumbs and egg and then fry them in batter until they are golden brown. You can curry them, boil or roast them and even turn them into hamburgers if you want, although the

older buggers can be a bit tough to eat, so I only go for the young ones."

He sells them for £1.50 each. They are best after October, when they have fattened themselves up for the winter. And how do they taste? "A mixture between chicken and rabbit," Mr Good says. "There is enough meat on one squirrel for one person — quite nice really."

One of the most famous squirrel-eaters was Elvis Presley, who was brought up on them in Tupelo, Mississippi. If only he had stuck to squirrels, instead of his later high-calorie diet of bacon, jam and peanut butter sandwiches he might have been with us today.



The new cast: from left, Steve Balsamo (Jesus), Joanna Ampil (Mary Magdalene), and Zubin Varla (Judas)

## Unknown is chosen to be a Superstar

A MAN who took up singing to impress a girlfriend has been plucked from obscurity to take the lead role in Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's revival of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Dalya Alberge writes). Steve Balsamo, 25, was jealous of the adulation that the girl gave to rock stars. Although the romance later broke up, he realised he could sing, became lead singer with a rock band called Living

Room and took on acting roles including a television appearance in *Casualty*.

Gale Edwards, director of the revived rock musical, said that Balsamo was among 1,000 hopefuls who auditioned over eight months. She said: "He had a natural charisma. He also has an astonishingly good rock'n'roll voice."

Judas Iscariot will be played by Zubin Varla, who has worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Joanna Ampil,

who played Kim in *Miss Saigon*, will be Mary Magdalene.

The musical, which upset religious groups when it was first staged in the 1970s, helped to make the names of its creators, Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, and of its early stars, such as Paul Nicholas and Elaine Page. It ran for eight years in the West End. It will reopen on November 19 at the revived Lyceum Theatre in the Strand, London.

## Birds' egg collector escapes £6m fine

A COLLECTOR who amassed hundreds of protected birds' eggs could have incurred a fine of more than £6 million, a court was told yesterday.

The Durham City magistrates accepted that Robert Crick had not had the means to pay penalties of £5,000 per rare egg and £3,000 for each of the others. He imposed two specimen fines of £600 for an osprey egg and £600 for a peregrine egg, plus £50 costs.

A police raid on Crick's former home in Branton, Co Durham, in May last year led to the discovery of 2,431 eggs neatly set out in cabinets in a locked garage. The court ordered it to be confiscated.

Crick, 48, a tyre-fitter, admitted two charges of possessing 383 eggs of protected rare birds and two charges of having 1,421 eggs from more common protected species. The court was told that the collection included the eggs of some of Britain's rarest nesting birds, such as the red-throated diver and goshawk.

Barbara Thubron, for the defence, said that he had been collecting eggs since he was a boy and had invested a large amount of money in his hobby. "It resulted in his divorce after his wife alleged that he spent far too much time watching birds and with his egg collection and not enough time with her."

"Today is the final episode in a wasted life collecting eggs. He has lost his wife and family because of it and now he is going to lose his collection."

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# France braced for autumn of strikes over budget cuts

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRENCH union leaders and government ministers will head off on holiday this month in the knowledge that the stage is set for a renewed bout of labour unrest when they return in September.

Government pledges to cut budgets and prune back the public sector, union strike threats and ever-swelling unemployment have mixed in a volatile cocktail that will ferment through the summer. Many commentators predict that at the *la rentrée*, when France grudgingly goes back to work, the strikes and stoppages of last autumn will also return with a vengeance.

Clear signs of a looming confrontation over government austerity plans came this week with reports that up to 10,000 jobs will be cut from the public sector next year, as part of the 60 billion francs (£7.8 billion) in economies the Government hopes to make in advance of European monetary union. At least 2,500 teaching jobs are likely to be slashed, the first employment cuts in education for 15 years.

Monique Vuillat, head of the powerful secondary teachers' union, said she was already seeking support from other public sector unions for strike action in the autumn.

Other education unions called the cuts "scandalous".

Teachers' union leaders have scheduled a meeting on August 27 and the seven civil service federations will also meet on September 10 to co-ordinate action. The Force Ouvrière union, which spearheaded the strikes last year, has scheduled a march for September 21 to defend jobs, salaries and welfare benefits.

But the cuts so far identified are only the tip of the iceberg of what the Government must ram into the Titanic public sector, which employs more than two million people, to meet the Maastricht criteria for a single European currency. Eliminating 10,000 public sector jobs will save just 1.5 billion francs, a fourth of the total government objective.

It is no accident that the first intimations of the shape of cuts to come should have emerged in the holiday season. Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, is plainly hoping that by circulating his plans during the summer lull he can take at least some of the sting out of them.

But the unions are in unforgiving mood, especially after job figures released yesterday showed that unemployment had reached a near-record 12.5

per cent. "They talk about fighting unemployment and then cut jobs," said Bernard Lhuillier, head of the civil service branch of the Communist-led CGT union.

The scope and timing of further unrest may depend largely on the rail unions, which were among the most militant opponents of M Juppé's efforts to overhaul the welfare system last year.

The Government is preparing for the "battle royal" in prospect by quietly garnering support in some unlikely places. President Chirac dined this week with Alain Madelin, the Thatcherite former Finance Minister, who suggested a year ago that the civil service needed pruning, and was immediately sacked.

Today, M Chirac goes a step further by having lunch with Edouard Balladur, his rival for the presidency who has repeatedly sniped at the Government's budget policies. The two men dislike one another, but with further unrest on the horizon, M Chirac needs all the allies he can muster.

The President is spending his break at a Provencal fortress: an accurate reflection of his mentality, the unions say, and perhaps the best place to prepare for conflict.

## Skinheads held for attack on cemetery

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FIVE skinheads have been arrested in connection with the desecration of the Jewish cemetery at Carpentras more than six years ago, a crime that outraged France and prompted a political furor.

In May 1990, 34 graves were vandalised and the body of an elderly man who had died five days before was impaled on an umbrella.

A wave of revisionism swept France and the finger of suspicion was immediately pointed at the extreme-right National Front, then gaining political ground. The President at the time, François Mitterrand, later joined 200,000 people on a march through Paris against racism and anti-Semitism.

The five people held yesterday have not been identified but are believed to be linked to the Parti Nationaliste Français et Européen, an extremist neo-Nazi breakaway from the National Front, founded by a former Waffen SS member.

Two of those arrested have confessed to the crime, radio reports said. All were in custody in Avignon last night. □ Bonn: German neo-Nazis have applied to hold more than 100 marches to commemorate Hitler's former deputy, Rudolf Hess, who committed suicide in Spandau prison on August 17, 1987.



Zapatista rebels welcome Danielle Mitterrand, widow of the former French President, to the village of La Realidad in Mexico, where she is taking part this week in a conference on global domination by multinational companies

## Children of Russian officials 'stole £64m'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

CHILDREN of leading Russian bureaucrats are being accused of stealing about \$100 million (£64.5 million) from the Interior and Defence Ministries through falsifying letters of credit between 1993 and 1994.

According to the Russian police, embezzlement charges are being prepared against ten people, mostly the sons and daughters of senior officials.

Andrei Stepanov, the head of Moscow's investigation division, said the cases were by no means exceptional. He added that his officers were also investigating the Health Ministry, where millions of pounds in medical aid for Chechnia had disappeared. "The case involves officials very close to the Health Minister, which creates certain difficulties for investigators," he said yesterday, lamenting that senior officials in Russia still regard themselves as above the law.

Although the latest disclosures of corruption are stunning, even by Russia's standards, it is not clear how far the crackdown will lead. After the presidential elections and the rise of General Aleksandr Lebed as the Kremlin's security chief, it had been hoped that his tough "law and order" platform would be translated into a big clean-up drive.

However, there are serious doubts whether a concerted operation is possible while President Yeltsin is still in power. Several senior figures close to the Russian leader have been suspected of making millions through bribes, embezzlement or abuse of influence. Only one has been arrested.

## Bosnian Croats' church bombed

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN BUGOJNO

SISTER Kornelia Grubisan, a Catholic nun in the predominantly Muslim town of Bugojno, had settled into bed to read a novel in her quarters at the Franciscan Church of St Anton when a powerful bomb exploded outside her window last Friday night.

The blast, believed to be the work of Muslim extremists, shattered all nine of the hand-made stained-glass windows of the 120-year-old Catholic church, the biggest in Bosnia. It destroyed a hearse, an ambulance and a pharmacy run by an international aid group. It cracked the walls of the children's Sunday school room and blew off the doors in the residence hall, where 13 nuns and priests sleep. Nobody was killed, however.

The bombing was probably in retaliation for the partial burning of a mosque in nearby Prozor, a predominantly Croat town, a day earlier. It is a reflection of the deteriorating relations between Muslims and Croats, partners in a shaky federation.

In Bugojno today less than 2,000 of the prewar Croat population of 15,000 remain. According to Father Janko Ljubos, 47, the priest who runs the Franciscan parish, they are routinely harassed by the Muslim authorities who control the town. "This attack was an attempt to force out the remaining Croats," he said.

The church had become a community centre for the Croats, housing offices of Caritas, a Catholic relief organisation, a human rights group, a mail centre for Croat residents, and offices of the Croatian Democratic Union.

"There are some parts of Bosnia where the ethnic cleansing is not finished and now, extremist groups on all sides are trying to finish it off," said Father Ljubos.



Balabagan: outrage over her death sentence

## Filipina maid flies home to a fortune

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SARAH BALABAGAN, the teenage Filipina maid who has faced a death sentence, flogging and two years in jail for murdering her employer in the United Arab Emirates after he allegedly tried to rape her, was freed and flew home to Manila yesterday, facing a future brimming with all the hope that money can buy.

Miss Balabagan has a reported £100,000 to spend from a trust fund set up with donations from well-wishers and many times that amount believed to be on offer from Manila businessmen.

In 1994 she was convicted of murdering her elderly employer, Almas Mohammed al-Baloushi. Last summer she was sentenced to die, causing international outrage and prompting Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to intervene. After a retrial she was sentenced to a year in prison and 100 lashes.

The UAE said Miss Balabagan was released because of good behaviour in jail. While there, she was inundated with gifts as well as offers of marriage. One of her suitors is reportedly an Englishman.

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£10,000 to £49,999	0.50	0.57	0.40	0.46
£50,000 to £99,999	0.50	0.57	0.40	0.47
£100,000 and over	0.50	0.57	0.40	0.47

Gross: the rate before the deduction of tax applicable to interest on savings.  
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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 1 1996

# Township mob on rampage after 15 die in stampede

ANGRY youths fought running battles with police in Tembisa township, 20 miles northeast of Johannesburg, yesterday as they vented their anger over a rush-hour railway station stampede that left 15 people dead and more than 50 injured.

President Mandela pledged an urgent inquiry into the "national tragedy" at Tembisa station, caused when security guards with electric shock batons tried to turn back alleged fare dodgers. The victims were crushed as thousands of commuters trying to board trains into Johannesburg and Pretoria were caught in a bottleneck.

In rare scenes of township violence since the end of apartheid, hundreds of youths



An electric-baton attack by security guards on railway fare dodgers led to a riot and a narrow escape from a violent crowd for Inigo Gilmore

rampaged through the dusty streets round the station vowing to kill the security guards. Screaming abuse and hurling stones, they set upon journalists at the scene.

Arriving at the station, I saw youths wielding clubs and metal bars smash down the wooden door of the ticket office before torching it. This triggered a gas-bottle explosion that ripped off part of the roof.

Police in bullet-proof vests, firing rubber bullets and tear-

gas, chased the mob from the station across waste ground where I was standing. As they took up positions around the station, a white policeman beckoned aggressively to his tormentors as they hurled rocks at him.

Screaming men and women then turned their anger on me, as I crouched behind a car. Stones narrowly missed my head and body. As I scrambled into the passenger seat of the car, a colleague from The Daily Telegraph put the vehicle into reverse, but the front wheels became stuck in a rut.

A rock crashed through the driver's window, and for a few terrifying moments, with the wheels spinning, I watched the mob come closer. With a jerk of the steering wheel the car was suddenly free and we sped away.

Witnesses at the scene said the stampede occurred shortly after 6am. They said people had arrived earlier to find the ticket office shut and, worried about missing their trains, attempted to board without tickets. Passengers forced their way through the control point, crushing others in front.

More than 50 people were reportedly admitted to a hospital in the township with injuries caused by electric shocks. A police spokesman said such



Residents protesting in Tembisa yesterday after 15 rail commuters died in a stampede triggered by the use of electric batons on fare dodgers

shocks could be lethal. One witness said he saw security guards pinning down passengers and pressing prods into bare skin, including faces.

Bintu Petsana, a spokeswoman for Metro Rail which runs the commuter train service, said the company had begun deploying private security guards on Monday to curb fare dodgers. "Resistance had been building up among non-paying commuters who refused to move to ticket offices," she said. "These com-

muters embarked on a practice of waiting on top of a bridge until a train arrived and then storming down the stairs past the access points."

She added: "This happened again this morning, with a group of singing and dancing commuters shouting and pushing their way past the security personnel."

In the pandemonium police struggled to restrain a surging crowd of several thousands who demanded to see the victims. As word spread of the

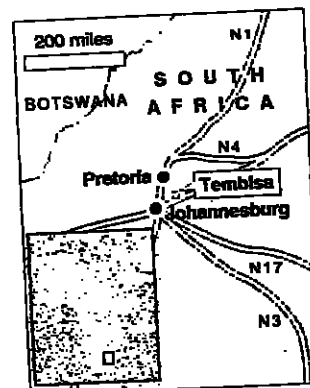
tragedy, youths, many school-children, flocked to the scene demanding answers and punishment for the security guards. The guards, who had earlier hidden in the ticket office, were ferried by police to a local police station.

Encircled by plumes of billowing black smoke, youths demonstrated at the entrance to the station. Speaking from inside a riot van, a local ANC official tried to calm the crowd, but his pleas for restraint were drowned by

shouts of anger. "If the security guards come back here the people will murder them," a 24-year-old calling himself "KB" said to no effect.

"The people want justice." For most Tembisa residents, trains are the only mode of transport to Johannesburg. A ticket to the city costs 3.5 rands (about 50p) while a trip to the local suburbs is 1.5 rands.

A relief fund was set up to assist victims and their families and had received 500,000 rands by last night.



Armed police guarding the station from protesters

## African states isolate Burundi regime

FROM SAM KILEY  
IN BUJUMBURA

AFRICAN leaders vowed yesterday to impose tough economic sanctions against Burundi's new military regime, and demanded that it open negotiations with Hutu rebels or face "tougher measures".

Major Pierre Buyoya, who seized power in a coup last week, was left out of the talks in Arusha, northern Tanzania. "This is a total economic blockade of Burundi. There was not a single dissenting voice," President Mkapa of Tanzania said after

the six-nation regional summit. Other leaders came from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia and Zaire.

The tough stance has not been matched since 1967, when the Organisation of African Unity imposed sanctions on Rhodesia, and signals a new phase in regional politics, since African leaders traditionally have ignored the affairs of their neighbours. The six leaders said the curbs would not be lifted until Major Buyoya restored "constitutional legality", a demand amounting to an order to restore Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, the

deposed Hutu President, to power. Land-locked Burundi, its economy hard hit by civil war, relies on brewing, and coffee and tea exports by road. About 150,000 people have died in three years of killings between Hutus, who are 85 per cent of the population, and Tutsis, who control the military.

Major Buyoya, in an attempt to woo support, yesterday appointed a Hutu as his Prime Minister. But it had no effect. Pascal-Firmin Ndimira, 40, has a Rwandan Tutsi mother and is a member of the Tutsi-dominated Uprona Party.



Kelly: hanged at 25

## Aborigines seek Ned Kelly reward

FROM ROGER MAYNARD  
IN SYDNEY

DESCENDANTS of two Aborigines who tracked down the infamous Australian bush ranger, Ned Kelly, launched a court action yesterday for the reward that they claim was never paid.

In 1880, when the bandit who became a folk hero was captured by police after a shootout in Glenrowan, Victoria, a £50 reward had been

posted for information leading to his arrest. The Aboriginal pair drew on their traditional hunting skills to lead police to Kelly's hideout.

Now, 116 years later, their descendants claim the reward, equivalent to two weeks' salary for a clerk at the time, is worth £20,000 with compound interest.

John Lee Jones, an Aboriginal elder, acting on behalf of families of the men, filed suits against the Victoria and

Queensland state governments yesterday. Mrs May McBride, 79, a granddaughter of one of the Aborigines, claimed her grandfather repeatedly tried to obtain the reward before he died in poverty in 1925.

Legal sources said the lawsuits had little chance of success because of the time lapse since Kelly's capture.

Kelly was hanged in Melbourne jail a few months after his capture, aged 25.

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# Ignored Buchanan hints at quitting Republican ranks

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PAT BUCHANAN, the biggest thorn in Bob Dole's side, all but threatened to quit the Republican Party yesterday if his conservative agenda continued to be ignored.

Warning that the party was in "dire straits", Mr Buchanan was still steaming over being offered only a 15-second video appearance at the Republican convention. He told a Washington press conference that his not being invited to speak was an insult.

Almost as bad, Mr Dole, the Republican presidential nominee, was refusing to talk to him, the Dole campaign would not return his calls to discuss platform proposals, and he felt as though he was being boxed out.

Mr Dole has decided that to have any hope of beating President Clinton in Novem-

ber he must run towards the moderate centre. In doing so, he is trying to ignore the party's divisions and gambling that Mr Buchanan will not leave the fold and take his legion of supporters with him, because they have nowhere else to go.

As a maverick and a populist, Mr Buchanan came second in the primaries with three million votes. His delegates promise to be a noisy presence at the convention, which starts in 11 days' time in San Diego, with the potential to cause floor-fights over abortion, taxes and international trade.

Alone among the other defeated primary contestants, Mr Buchanan refuses to endorse Mr Dole. When asked what it would take for him to do so, he said his attitude

would depend on the tone of the convention, the shape of the party's platform and the selection of an anti-abortion candidate for Vice-President.

He intends to go to the convention as a Republican and he hoped to leave as one, he said, emphasising the word hoped. "But I cannot give these folks a blank cheque," he added, "I am more committed to a lot of these ideas and issues than to any party label."

Asked point-blank if he would leave the party, he said: "What we do is contingent on the next few weeks."

Mr Buchanan will hold a series of rallies beyond the convention hall to "provide a voice for the unborn and for the working men and women who have been left out of this hollow prosperity". He speaks not for the Republican blue-bloods, but for the blue-collar conservatives and the Religious Right, whose ranks he says are growing.

Buchanan delegates will be armed with his latest manifesto, which goes beyond Mr Dole's proposals in calling for a flat tax with some deductions and for an "America First" curbing of free trade that runs counter to mainstream Republican beliefs.

In typically heated Buchanan rhetoric, it says: "Amoral trans-national corporations that dominate foreign trade have adopted a 'profit over all' mind-set."

"Like the denizens of Jurassic Park, they exhibit only appetite. They have no allegiance to any country and no loyalty even to their own workers."

On foreign policy, Mr Buchanan accused Europeans of cutting back their military forces and throwing the entire burden of their defence on the Americans. America's response, he said, must be to pull all US ground troops out of Europe and transfer command of NATO to a European general.

## Belorussia opposition heads seek US asylum

BY TOM RHODES, AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE United States last night was considering asylum for two opposition leaders from Belorussia who claim they fled the hardline regime in the former Soviet republic in fear of their lives.

Zenon Poznyak, chairman of the Popular Front party, and Sergei Naumchik, its press secretary, said they had been labelled enemies of the state by President Lukashenko, who had ordered them "neutralised" or killed.

The two, speaking on Capitol Hill, called on Congress to hold hearings on recent human rights abuses in Belorussia. Martin Hoke, a Ohio Republican, said both had been imprisoned and claimed to have suffered various abuses.

"I have advanced their case and to my understanding there is every indication that they will be granted political asylum here," he said. "I have also urged Congress to cut foreign aid to Belorussia and prevent what appears to be the creation of a police state."

The State Department and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service both declined comment. Under federal law, asylum cases are protected by a privacy clause.

The asylum request is likely to exacerbate a tense situation in Belorussia where President Lukashenko, the democratically elected but dictatorially minded leader, is locked in battle with the opposition.

The Belorussian leader said yesterday that he was preparing a decree that would ban "unlawful, anti-state, anti-presidential activities".

He triggered nationwide unrest in April when he pledged to reforge a union with Russia. Seven political parties, from nationalists to Communists, signed a declaration last week denouncing his presidency. Seven thousand pro-nationalist demonstrators took to the streets of Minsk, the capital, last Saturday in a show of defiance.



Workers unload a section of three of Flight 800's passenger seats from a barge

## Damage to landing gear boosts TWA bomb theory

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE front landing gear of TWA Flight 800, pulled from the waters off Long Island, has yielded the strongest evidence yet that the jumbo jet was brought down by a bomb.

Investigators were quoted yesterday as saying that the landing gear had suffered "serious concussive damage" indicating that it was close to the source of the explosion.

With the plane flying at 13,700ft, the landing gear would have been shoved in its metal casing inside the fuselage. Divers who hoisted the wreckage from the seabed on Saturday found, however, that the hydraulic mechanism that retracts the nose wheel had been smashed by the explosion.

"The vast majority of the wreckage has been these torn, mangled pieces of thin metal from the fuselage," one investigator said. "This was a huge piece of thick steel, and it had been blasted."

The discovery bolsters the theory that the Boeing 747 was split in two by a bomb in the

forward baggage compartment, or possibly in a food cart or toilet above.

The front landing gear is located next to the forward baggage compartment and beneath the first-class seating. It was found near the wreckage of the first-class cabin and other parts of the front of the plane, about 15 miles from the main fuselage.

Salvage crews have also recovered a forward cargo door that similarly points to a bomb blast in the front cargo hold. The door was recovered further back along the plane's flight path than the front landing gear, suggesting it was one of the first pieces to be blown off.

James Kallstrom, the FBI's chief investigator, said publicly for the first time on Tuesday night that he favoured one of the three scenarios investigators have identified—a bomb, a missile and mechanical malfunction—but refused to say which. The FBI is waiting for hard forensic evidence before making an official announce-

ment that the crash was the result of a terrorist attack.

The USS Grapple, a salvage vessel equipped with a pilotless submarine and heavy lifting gear, yesterday joined its sister ship, the USS Grasp, at the crash site. The Grapple attempted to hoist up wreckage of the front of the plane, while the Grasp continued to work on the main fuselage.

Investigators hope that sophisticated tests at the FBI crime laboratory outside Washington will reveal chemical residue of any explosive. The absence of positive results has led some to speculate that a bomb might have been made of dynamite, which leaves little residue.

Meanwhile, another TWA Flight 800 flight on the New York-Paris route was forced to turn back shortly after take-off on Tuesday night due to a light warning of an open service door. After major disasters airlines usually rename routes, but TWA has insisted on keeping Flight 800.

## Eta bomb warning for France

Madrid: A car dealer was badly injured in Calatayud, near Zaragoza, yesterday by a letter bomb left at his Citroën showroom by Eta, the Basque separatist group (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Spanish police believe the bomb—and a petrol bomb attack earlier yesterday on a Peugeot showroom in Zamudio, near Bilbao, that damaged six cars—could be the start of a wave of Eta attacks on French symbols and business interests in retaliation for France's new close co-operation with Spain against the extremists.

Hermínio Ibáñez Herrero, the Citroën dealer, had his left hand amputated.

## Radiation scare at Iran plant

Nicosia: About 25 people were exposed to radioactivity at a gas power station in northern Iran, the International Atomic Agency said yesterday (Michael Theodorou writes). The news clarified a sketchy report in a Tehran newspaper that prompted speculation of a nuclear accident. David Kyd, of the agency, said a radiograph machine had been accidentally left in a pipeline. By the time it was found, staff had suffered mild exposure.

## £6m leap in cash for Greenpeace

Amsterdam: Donations to Greenpeace jumped by £6.4 million last year despite a drop in world membership. Greenpeace's management board said in its annual report that high-profile media campaigns on the Brent Spar oil platform and French nuclear testing in the South Pacific pushed worldwide donations to £38.6 million from £32.2 million in 1995. (Reuter)

## Pakistan buys Ukraine tanks

Islamabad: Pakistan, stung by US sanctions against weapons sales, has bought more than 300 Russian-built tanks from Ukraine in a £350 million deal. Announcing the purchase, a Pakistan Defence Ministry official did not specify the precise number of T-80UD tanks to be delivered over three years. (Reuter)

## Kangaroo siege

Sydney: An animal welfare officer had to shoot a sick kangaroo that terrorised an elderly couple by refusing to let them out of their suburban home after taking up residence on their porch. (AP)

## Democrats divided over welfare cuts

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS yesterday left the White House struggling to find a compromise after a sweeping overhaul of the American welfare system left President Clinton under fire from his own party.

The House of Representatives was expected to vote last night on a Bill to end the 61-year-old federal guarantee of cash assistance to every poor family with children. Like the Senate, which votes today, both houses are expected to pass the measure easily.

States would get an annual cash grant and be able to design their own programmes to create employment for welfare recipients. The Bill would also cut eligibility for food stamps and deny benefits under most welfare schemes to legal immigrants, limit benefits to five years, and reduce spending by about \$35

billion (£35 billion) over six years. Mr Clinton, expected to receive the Bill before Congress goes into recess at the end of the week, has yet to make a decision but White House sources said he would sign it. The President said: "I hope we can work it out. We just need to keep the kids in mind... the children need to come out ahead."

Within the White House, however, two camps have emerged. Political advisers, mindful of the election and Mr Clinton's campaign promise to "abolish welfare as we know it", have urged him to sign the legislation.

Liberal aides and the left wing of the congressional Democratic Party say the Bill will plunge more than a million children into poverty and want him to veto the proposals.

## Indonesians add to democracy demands

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JAKARTA

INDONESIA arrested anti-government campaigners and kept riot police on the streets of Jakarta yesterday in a drive against an increasingly defiant pro-democracy movement.

The Government has been stunned by the first serious challenge to a controlled political order that has given President Suharto a monopoly on power for 30 years. Orders to police to shoot

rioters on sight have ensured peace in Jakarta after violent demonstrations last weekend. But pro-democracy leaders continued issuing statements yesterday demanding the dismantling of a system that guarantees perpetual power for the governing Golkar party, which is certain to win next year's general election.

President Suharto, 75, is guaranteed a seventh term if he wants it. However, the death of his wife in April and his visit to a heart specialist in

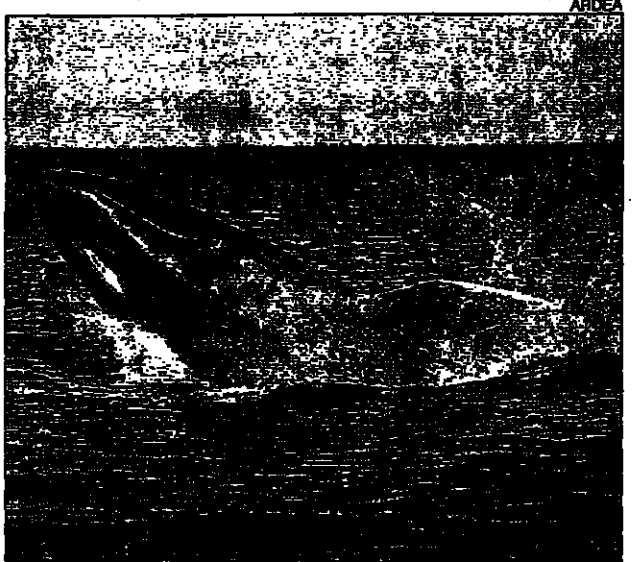
Germany last month have focused attention on his succession. There is no machinery for a proper succession, leaving foreign investors nervous. Last Friday, the stock market dipped on the false rumour that the President had fainted.

The Government described 230 accused rioters who are under arrest as "small worms" and pledged to hunt for what it called the masterminds of the weekend turmoil, in which two men died. The

demonstrations, an unprecedented reaction to years of political repression, were sparked by the Government's involvement in the removal of Megawati Sukarnoputri from the chairmanship of the opposition Democratic Party in June, partly because she posed a credible challenge.

The daughter of Sukarno, Indonesia's founder and first President, is due to go to court today to see the Government for arranging her removal from the party leadership.

## Scientists seize their chance to learn deepest secrets of the blue whale



A blue whale calf, only a baby at 50ft, off California

FROM GILES WHITTILL OFF SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

SECONDS before the whale breathed, a flash of iridescent blue betrayed it. Fresh from a feed and nearly twice the length of a cricket pitch, the largest thing that has lived on Earth was coming to the surface.

It did so more like a submarine than a mammal, breaking the smooth skin of the Pacific first with a bow wave and then with its vast back. Before it was gone, another had surfaced less than a mile away, grazing on the same rich bloom of krill. Then another, followed closely by its calf, a mere 50ft long.

Thirty miles off the southern Californian coast, an unprecedented gathering of great blue whales, once hunted to near extinction, has brought scientists flocking. Their mission is twofold: to monitor the recovery of an impossibly majestic

species and to address a mystery: why have they assembled here?

In one of the biggest concentrations yet, some 200 blue whales have been seen in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary so far this summer. Sightings have increased steadily over the past five years, with the giant creatures gorging on krill that feed on plankton in huge swarms on the edge of the continental shelf.

A cold-water upwelling where prevailing currents meet the islands

means that krill have thrived here for aeons. What baffles scientists is that blue whales have not. Before 1991, sightings were virtually unheard of.

Bob Pitman, an expert aboard a US government research vessel in the area, said: "They may have come from the north or the south, having found new krill or for more complex social reasons." Fast, sleek and none too gregarious, blue whales have kept more secrets from science than

their smaller brethren. Breeding and migration habits remain largely unknown, but the 19-strong scientific team has made some progress.

By listening to the whales from a special 300ft vessel that upends itself like a fishing float, the team has established that they fall silent when feeding, undermining theories that they congregated near the islands after deliberately alerting each other to the krill.

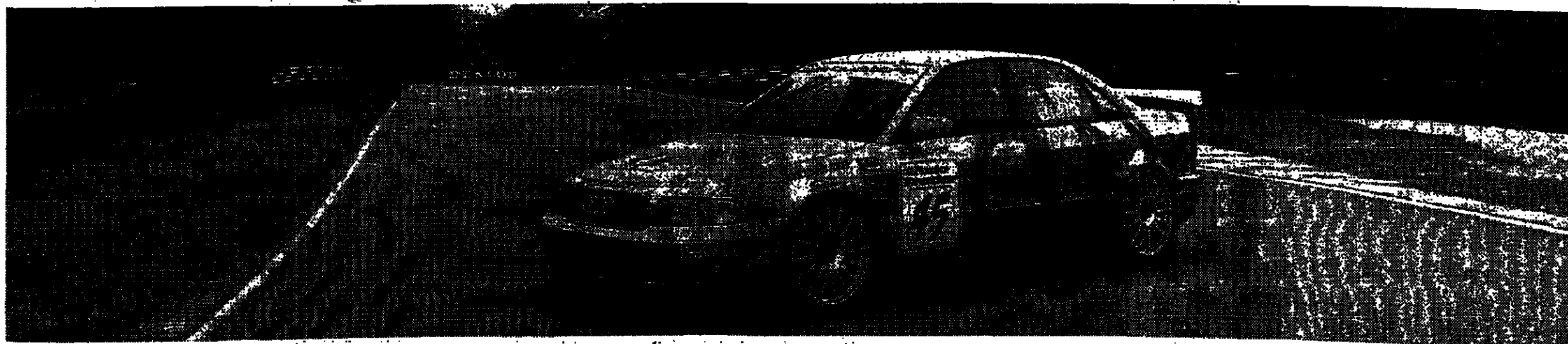
Efforts to learn how often and how deep the whales dive received a boost a few days ago when an adult was tagged with a radio transmitter fired from a crossbow. Blue whales, which have been known to dive to depths of more than 600ft, have been tagged successfully only six times in history. In the past month, according to Ed Cassano, the sanctuary's manager,

Slaughtered in their hundreds of thousands by whaling fleets operat-

ing mainly near Antarctica, blue whales are thought to have numbered some 400,000 at the start of the century. That figure is now put at 12,000. Listed as an endangered species in 1966, they may be making a slow comeback: 2,000 are thought to feed off California's coast alone.

Captain Fred Benko, one of the few boat-owners able to offer bona fide blue-whale-watching trips, calls the deep waters of the Santa Barbara Channel a "cetacean soup". One day last week it served up, besides the blue whales, a lone minke whale, a large pod of white-sided dolphins and enough common dolphins to churn up water for hundreds of yards around his boat. He guessed there were a thousand.

But Mr Pitman said: "The blue whales could be gone next year. They may just eat up all the krill and then move on. We don't know enough about them."



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EXPIRES 31/10/96

FBI agents home of bomb blast

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# FBI agents comb home of Atlanta bomb blast 'hero'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN ATLANTA

A LARGE squad of FBI agents yesterday searched the flat of Richard Jewell, the Olympics security guard who is being investigated for the bomb blast in Atlanta last Saturday.

Special agent David Tubbs, an FBI spokesman, said the unusually large number of investigators at the Jewell residence did "not indicate in any way that he has been charged with a crime", and Mr Jewell continued to protest his innocence.

By lunchtime there had been no arrest, although he was being trailed by FBI agents, and forensic experts were conducting tests on evidence from his house. Mr Jewell was co-operating with law enforcers and was seen sitting on the steps outside his home, talking to agents.

Other residents at the Buford Highway block of flats were evacuated by police to enable investigators ease of movement as they conducted a search of the area.

The FBI, which has been criticised for the way it gathered evidence against the Oklahoma bomb suspect, Timothy McVeigh, was keen to be seen proceeding by the book. Mr Tubbs repeatedly said: "Mr Jewell has not been placed under arrest." Behind him, however, special incident vans and a mobile crime laboratory were pulling up for what looked like being a long stay.

The Atlanta Games organisers faced questions about how a man with a chequered security record managed to clear the checks allegedly made on all people working at the Olympics venues. Mr Jew-

ell was not only dismissed from a former security job for "erratic and overzealous" behaviour but was also on record for having tried recently to impersonate a policeman and make an arrest.

Bob Brennan, a Games official, tried to refer security matters to the telephone company that hired the security contractor for whom Mr Jewell works. But Mr Brennan, whose committee made the boast that Atlanta would be

being cleared when the bag exploded. But for Mr Jewell's action, it was said, many more people would have died.

If Mr Jewell is charged with the bombing, comparison will be made to the case of a policeman at the 1984 Olympics. Officer James Pearson of the Los Angeles Police Department dramatically seized hold of a suspect bomb and hurled it to safety after it was attached to a bus full of Turkish athletes. The "bomb" was later found to be a fake, which he himself had planted.

Earlier this week, the FBI confirmed it was including Games workers in its investigation. Psychologists have predicted that the Olympic bomber is a loner, perhaps a military man or a former police officer.

Mr Jewell's neighbours yesterday described him as an unremarkable, though not unfriendly, man, who in fact still wanted to work in the law enforcement business. He may have hoped his actions at Centennial Park would improve his chances of landing a good job. In front of the cameras he had appeared modest, saying: "I don't think I am a hero." He was near the bomb when it exploded and was blown off his feet.

Police will also compare Mr Jewell's voice to the accent of the man who placed the bomb-warming call to police 18 minutes before the explosion. The call was made from a public telephone about ten minutes' walk from where Mr Jewell was working that night.

Letters, page 17  
Olympic reports, pages 39-42



Richard Jewell, the Olympic security guard under suspicion of planting the bomb, returns to his flat. He maintains he is innocent

## Spotlight falls on obsessive man with a grudge

BY QUENTIN LETTS

RICHARD JEWELL, suspected of the Olympic bombing, matches the stereotype of an American security guard: moustached, overweight and with a love of uniform and a frustrated desire to be a police patrol car officer.

Mr Jewell, 33, has a chequered history in security work. He was sacked as a college campus guard and he left the police after crashing a squad car. He resigned from the force rather than accept demotion to his old job as a jailer and was later arrested for impersonating an officer when trying to make an arrest.

Mr Jewell now lives with his mother

in a shaded condominium block in a quiet Atlanta suburb. Mrs Jewell is distressed by the commotion of reporters and FBI agents outside, and the sound of weeping can be heard through her door.

Mr Jewell went to work in April at Piedmont College, a small Georgia institution where he was employed as a security guard. He was dismissed the following month for "erratic" behaviour. His tendency to investigate the most trifling incident in the smallest detail simply did not suit the college authorities.

When Ray Cleere, the college president, saw Mr Jewell on television after Saturday's bomb and heard him

described as a "hero", he telephoned the FBI to express his doubts. "We felt he needed to be checked out further," he said.

After Piedmont College, Mr Jewell was hired by a security firm that had won a contract to provide guards for the AT&T telephone company at the Atlanta Olympics. He was given duties at a site in Centennial Park, the central area later to be ripped apart by a pipe bomb. The contract passed to another company, but Mr Jewell was kept on the pay roll, his supervisors impressed by his serious approach to his work.

The Atlanta Games organisers were hazy yesterday on what security

passes he had, but said he had been cleared by state and national crime information authorities. Any evidence of a security blunder will be seized on by lawyers representing victims of Saturday's bomb in any court case that may arise.

Security work, one of the boom occupations of the late 20th century, calls for a particular type of man — serious, with a high boredom threshold. More than having a "job's worth" mentality, such people take the view that placing petty obstacles in the way of others is what their job is all about. Mr Jewell, with his elaborate habit of calling people "sir", his beefy gait and his slow drawl, fitted the role perfectly.

## Gymnast cashes in on gold

BY QUENTIN LETTS



Strug, now enjoying the sweet scent of success

KERRI STRUG, the gymnast whose pain-beating vault ensured gold for the US women's gymnastics team, has said "yes" to the lucrative demands of commercial endorsements and name branding.

Miss Strug, 18, the academically bright daughter of an Arizona heart surgeon, initially resisted offers from corporations keen to associate themselves with "America's golden girl".

The only member of the US gymnastics team not to have an agent, she said she put a higher value on the university place she recently won at the University of California than on mere riches.

Now Marnon has won. She has engaged the services of Sheryl Shabe, a tough-nosed agent, and decided to

turn down her athletic scholarship. Her final vault, made despite an ankle injury, secured national recognition. She was telephoned by President Clinton, fazed wherever she went and pictured on numerous magazine covers.

One Hollywood agent promised her "millions" if she devoted herself to capitalising on the Olympics gold.

Mary-Lou Retton, American gold medal-winning gymnast at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984, has made pots of money. Her picture adorns cereal packets, and it seems she is seldom off the television.

Miss Strug will hope she can do as well, although a weedy voice may stunt the number of offers to do radio commercial voiceovers.

## Peru navy men held for drugs racket

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

PERUVIAN police have arrested two high-ranking navy officers accused of running cocaine shipments to Europe on naval ships, confirming a wave of revelations in the past month that members of the security forces are involved in drug trafficking.

Colonel Pedro Gómez and Luis Cordone were handcuffed and driven from their naval command offices in the capital, Lima, on Tuesday night to a police station where they are facing charges of running drugs to Europe on naval ships.

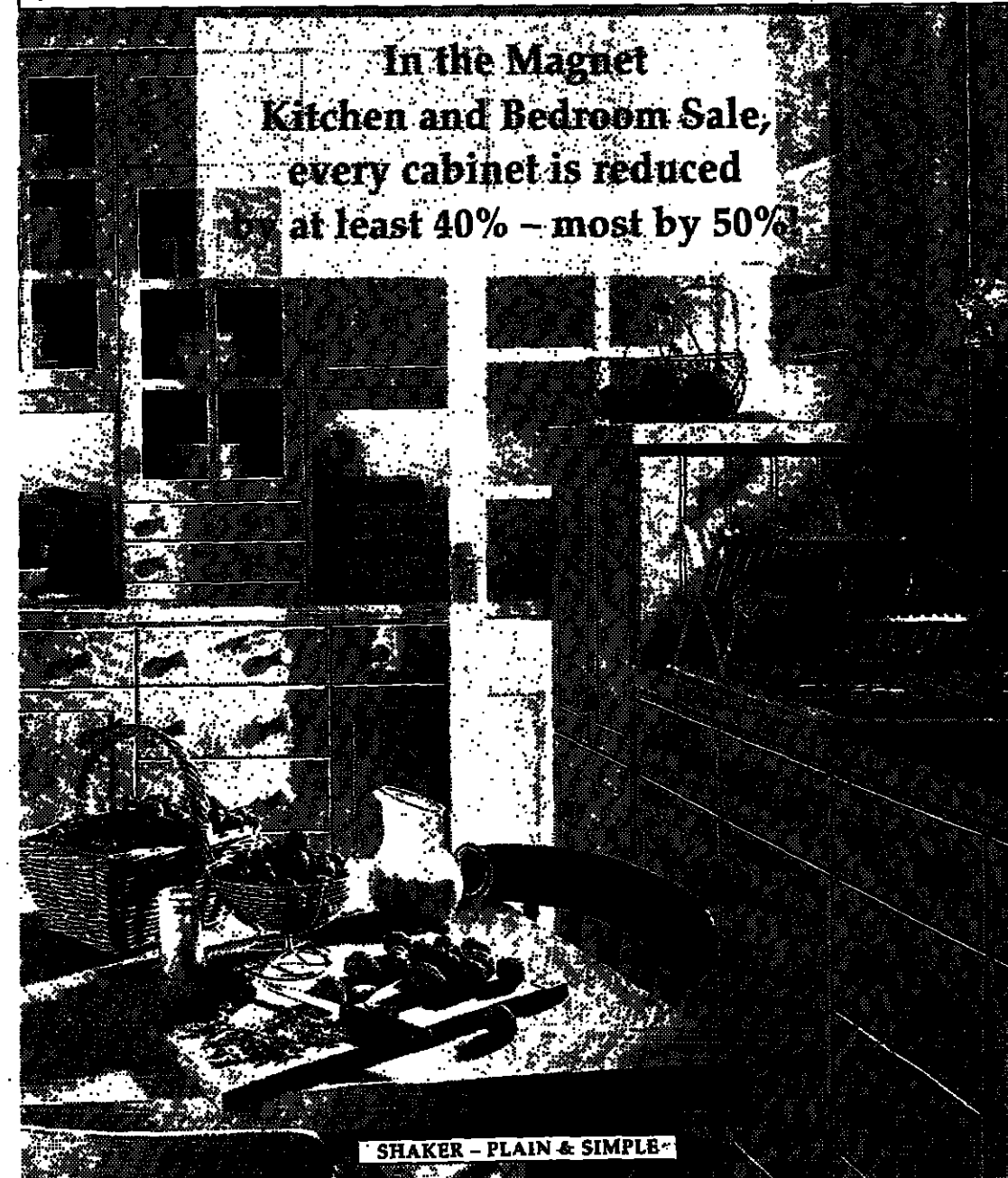
The arrests come after several police raids on naval cargo ships docked in the port of Callao in the past month, in which more than 220lb of cocaine were found hidden in the engine rooms of the two ships. The officers arrested yesterday captained the two ships on various journeys to European ports.

President Fujimori said it was possible members of the security forces were involved in drug trafficking. His Government would launch a massive investigation to "clean up" the forces.

Police hauled 383lb of cocaine from a Peruvian Air Force DC8, often used by the President, as it was about to take off for Europe with ten senior air force officers in May. The ten officers face trial for running a drug-trafficking racket which involved regular air force flights to London, Rome and Amsterdam.

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## When life depends on the liver

Whereas in Britain the minor, undiagnosed liver disease occasionally affects everyone are ascribed by doctors to viruses; in France the liver gets the blame. French bathroom cupboards are filled with mysterious medicines prescribed by their doctors for liver disorders, and the patients are assured that by taking them they will lose their headaches and joint pains, feel less tired, have their appetites restored and their bowels regulated.

The pattern of drinking in France means there is more liver disease, but less heart trouble, than there is here; but even in a London bar or at a dinner party regular drinkers still spare an anxious thought for their liver function.

On the back page, a doctor at the hospital, asked this week about the girl, said: "She continues to make good progress. Why are you so interested in her? She's a routine case, of no special medical interest." Within a generation pioneering surgery has become routine.

Thirty years ago there had been no successful liver transplants in Britain — the first one was done by Professor Roy Calne in 1968. Five years earlier the world's first liver transplant had been carried out in Denver, America, but the patient lived for only five hours. In 1967, also in Denver, a baby survived for 18 months after a transplant but as the liver was still working at the time of death this was heralded as a great success.

The situation is now very different: now Professor Roger Williams, director of the Institute of Liver Studies at King's College, London, says that in Britain surgeons are now doing about 650 transplants a year. The time is approaching when the number of donor organs will be inadequate to meet the demand, he says, but at the moment a patient who develops acute liver failure and is otherwise suitable for surgery will spend only two or three days on the "super urgent list" before a suitable liver is available. In chronic cases of liver failure the waiting list is two to six months.

Whereas 30 years ago there was rejoicing when the American baby lived for 18 months, today a patient having a transplant to relieve chronic liver failure has an 80 per cent chance of still being alive and reasonably well in five years' time. The odds are slightly worse for those who need emergency surgery.

The present high success rate in liver transplantation is as much to do with immunology as surgery. Transplant surgery is a team event in which the skill of surgeons, anaesthetists, physicians and immunologists is equally important. The study of rejection, the destruction by the host body of the grafted organ, has become a science of its own. Three types of immunosuppressant drug are used to prevent rejection and they are usually used in combination as they act in different ways. The trick is to use low enough doses of each drug to minimise the chance of serious side effects. But doses must be high enough so that, when combined with the other agents, they prevent rejection.

Azathioprine is usually combined with prednisolone, a steroid, and either cyclosporin or tacrolimus (Prograf). Trials of the newer product Prograf, which was introduced in 1994, have shown it to be superior to cyclosporin in preventing acute rejection and has fewer long-term side effects.

Immunosuppressants play an essential part in maintain-



Four-year-old Reeva Weedon, a triple liver transplant patient, is recovering well

ing the life of transplant patients, whether young children or chronic old ones. Even the heavy drinker who develops cirrhosis and liver failure is not beyond help. Professor Williams has studied the 5 to 6 per cent of his transplant patients that are heavy drinkers and has found that they do little worse than others after surgery. More than 98 per cent of them gave up heavy drinking, but very few renounced alcohol entirely.

## A heartening fish tale

A cardiologist finds a novel way of spreading his message

Next time Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, flies to London he should while away the hours by reading a novel written by Dr Frederic Saldmann, a cardiologist who is particularly interested in diet and heart disease, has studied the effect of a high fish intake on patients with coronary disease and in particular those who like Mr Patten, have had angioplasty — the procedure used to clear coronary arteries.

Dr Saldmann's research has shown that just two fish meals a week provide enough omega 3, the fatty acid found in oily fish, to make a substantial reduction in the likelihood of the diner having a heart attack. Dr Saldmann decided to put across this message in a novel, *Omega 3*, which is now available in Britain.

Before his patients were introduced to the high fish diet, 30-40 per cent of those who had had their coronary arteries cleared by angioplasty suffered obstruction in them again within a year. After taking the fish, the number of patients whose arteries clogged up again so quickly was reduced by half.

The amount of omega 3 is found in greatest abundance in oily fish such as mackerel, herring, tuna, sardines, eels, salmon and lampreys. The way the fish is cooked is important as it is destroyed by overheating. Smoked salmon, herrings (lightly smoked, as in Norfolk bloaters) or steamed fish leave the omega 3 intact but it's even better if it can be eaten raw.

Dr Saldmann warned against those who try to reduce the risk of heart attacks by taking omega 6, as found in evening primrose oil, sunflower oil and soya, without increasing their amount of omega 3. The balance between the two is all important and taking additional omega 6 without compensating by having more fish oil could be detrimental.

Those who are not enthusiastic cooks can make do with fish oil capsules like Pulse or Maxepa. Others could visit Safeways, where they will find bread or pasta, marketed under the "Heartwatch" label, which is fortified with omega 3, or could choose one of the low-fat spreads, such as Tesco's Life and other stores' Pact which also contain the cardio protective fatty acid.

*Omega 3* by Dr Frederic Saldmann is published by Quiller Press at £7.95



Omega 3, the fatty acid found in oily fish, can reduce the chances of having a heart attack

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# Maybe I just grew up too soon

Susan Tully explains why she left the security and near six-figure salary offered by *EastEnders* in search of new horizons and a fresh start. Interview by Mary Riddell

**E**xile has not altered Michelle from *EastEnders*. "What are you doing here, Chelle?" fans will ask her in the supermarket, puzzled to find her on the wrong continent when, as every soap aficionado knows, she is supposed to be in America.

Susan Tully is well aware of the power of soap opera mythology. For ten years she played Britain's most famous single mother, at first with delight and later with the fear of someone who saw her own life shrivelling away as the power of her character blossomed.

So she got out. New world (theatre in Hull, as it transpired), new horizons, new start. Nine months have passed, and Tully — to her credit — is still defiantly Michelle: drinking tea, smoking Silk Cut, flipping through her copy of *Marie Claire* and, occasionally, bouncing up and down on high-rise pilings to inspect her new hairdo in the hotel mirror.

"What do you think? Cost me a fortune," she says, in Michelle's North London nasal drone. You may have heard it, resolutely unmodified from *EastEnders* days, on *Genderquake*, the programme on the changing face of society she presented on Channel 4.

You will hear it, slightly muffled, on the football pitches of Ghana, in the next TV round of *Comic Relief*. Tully flies out to Africa tomorrow, the only woman in a 12-strong celebrity football team including Angus Deayton and Skinner and Baddiel. She had brought her sports kit with her so that she could fit in some training at the gym afterwards.

Tully first started kicking a football around on the housing estate where she was

brought up, the daughter of a North London watchmaker. Hers was the sort of background in which the field never looked likely until she was introduced to the Anna Scher theatre, a school adept at nurturing talent in working-class children.

By the time she was nine, she was on television. In her teens, she was a star of *Grange Hill*. At 18, shortly after she left school with four O levels, she won the part in *EastEnders* which would render her secure for life.

Being Michelle encompassed everything she could dream of. A salary close to six figures. An entrée into a world of parties and premieres where she could dance and drink with established stars. And, as the role evolved, an acting job with undertones which lifted it from soap to social cleansing agent. On a normal week, her storylines explored meningitis, abortion, HIV and the life of the single mother. On an abnormal one, dinner party conversations hinged on whether or not she would marry Lofty and who the father of her baby might be. Susan Tully, in short, had it made. Her background suggested that she would cling resolutely to lucrative stardom. Real-life Cinderellas and Eliza Doolittles do not normally elect to reverse the script.

Not only did she press the rewind button. She did so with no firm offer of other employment and no certainty, typecast as she was, that she would ever work again. By then she was convinced that her identity was disappearing. Careful as she is to praise her *EastEnders* colleagues, the impression she gives is of an existence which had become narrow and stifling. Even in the early days, the

seeds of dissatisfaction were there. "I was 18, earning ridiculous money, and I lapped it up. I did the whole scene — clubs, parties, getting drunk, having a fab time. Then I just stopped enjoying it. Maybe I grew up too soon. I had to work very hard to create a life outside *EastEnders*. Kids aren't told to cope. The only advice we were ever given was not to give our phone number to the press. Anna Scher and mum and dad helped me. They're the business, and they just let me go out and learn."



Nine months after leaving *EastEnders*, Susan Tully has devised a series for Channel 4, wants to move into directing and is studying for an Open University degree

"I had ten brilliant years. But then I thought: is this all I can do with my life? If I get married and have kids, will I have to tell them that I've spent the last 20 years playing make-believe? I handed my notice in nine months before I left, but I'd thought about it for a year before that."

"On a good day, life seemed like a big, blank canvas. On a bad day, it was a black hole I could fall into. I didn't know what life would be like away from the series, and the only thing I didn't want was to have to do crap to pay the

mortgage. *EastEnders* became emotionally and mentally hard work for me. My world was very small and apart from one or two people I never socialised with the cast."

I liked them all, but that wasn't enough. I could see friends and family enjoying lives that were becoming richer and more varied, and I was the one who was stuck."

"I worked on a worst-case scenario. If I never earned another penny, how long could I exist before I had to

sign on? I sorted that out, then for months the words were sitting in my mouth. I want to leave. I knew they would change my life, so I had to be damned sure I wanted it."

*EastEnders* offered her a vast pay rise, which she declined. They gave her a huge farewell party which induced no nostalgia. Nine months on, she has stayed working, both in theatre and on TV. She has also devised a series for Channel 4, wants to move into directing and — on quiet weeks — sits in her flat in Muswell Hill, north

London, and studies for an Open University degree. And still the ghost of Michelle lingers. "It's inevitable that I would be typecast. I'm sure it's happening now, but I don't know how much because it's hard to tell how people perceive you."

Almost certainly as rather brave. Endearingly, she declines to spin any sort of worthy line about how she gave up soap stardom to become a Really Serious Actress. It was just that she needed to do something different. That she has achieved.

In this week's *Genderquake* she got to dress up as a man. She also chaired an hour-long TV debate on the social issues aired by the series: a prospect she regarded as less enticing than having her shins kicked by Skinner and Baddiel.

She didn't know the members of the panel. Academics, think-tankers, people of whom she had never heard. And people who, for the first time in her months of freedom, were mercifully just as unfamiliar with Michelle from *EastEnders*.

## Blair's millionaire backer

Labour's richest benefactor is not even a member of the party, says Philip Deives Broughton

As Tony Blair shuffles his pack in preparation for the general election, one man who might really make a difference to Labour's chances will be wafting around a cool villa in Provence.

Paul Hamlyn was until recently in hospital in New

York recovering from complications after a routine operation. His £500,000 gift to the Labour Party, meanwhile, will be financing more than half of the promotional campaign for their new *Road to the Manifesto*.

Labour's glamour crowd is taking on the pallor of a troupe of ageing Bluebell Girls. At every fundraising event for almost a decade now, the same old faces have been wheeled out: John Mortimer, Stephen Fry, Ken Follett, Jeremy Irons. Hamlyn, on the other hand, never shows up. He is not even a member of the party.

His importance to Labour's bottom line, however, is enormous. A £230 million fortune and a propensity to Macanese philanthropy makes him a good man to have onside.

His charitable trust, set up in 1987, now has assets of £64 million, and has given money to the Bodleian Library in Oxford (£1 million), the Royal Opera House (£200,000 a year), and the National Commission on Education (£1 million).

Despite the size of his donations to Labour, however, he is less socialist than just mildly skewed to the left. His friend and business partner, Sir Terence Conran, attributes this to Hamlyn having grown up under the Labour Government of the late 1940s.

"Our views tend to the left rather than the right and we have a strong belief in democracy. It's not much more complicated than that."

The son of Czech immigrants, Hamlyn changed his name early on from Hamberger. He was tired of being nicknamed "sausage". This self-confessed MEM — "Middle European Melancholic" — grew up in an intellectual St John's Wood family. Aged 22, with an inheritance of £350, he started his publishing business from a barrow in Camden market.

Two fortunes were to follow. The first came when he sold his publishing company in 1964 for £2.25 million. He

amassed his next pile when he sold Octopus books to Reed Elsevier for £530 million, personally netting more than £150 million.

Apart from Conran, other close friends include Sir Claus Moser, the former Master of Wadham College, Oxford, and Rupert Murdoch, with whom he worked as joint managing director of News International in the 1970s.

It was through another friend, Lord Owen, that Hamlyn first became involved in politics. "He was one of many previous Labour supporters who helped out with the SDP," says Owen. "He was particularly good advising us on media presentation, but he is not a politician. Paul is by nature on the side of the underdog. He has clear ends and committed views."

Typical of his style of giving was his gift of £100,000 in 1990 for the specific purpose of developing Labour policies for the arts and cultural issues. Every season he buys out seats at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and distributes them free or at severely cut-price rates to those who could otherwise never afford to go.

Many feel that his charitable and business activities deserve more than just the CBE he received in 1993. What has prevented higher honours is the cocksure attitude he showed when his company published Peter Wright's *Spycatcher*. Friends close to the Tories pressed him to help out the Government by not publishing the book. He said that if he was to be persuaded, "nothing less than a dukedom will do".

Most of the business interests now playing footsie with Labour are doing little more than hedging their bets. The party's celebrity luvvies are squealing that Blair does not show them enough attention. Hamlyn, meanwhile, a dandyish, ruthless, rather sentimental figure, simply hands over his cheque and, seemingly unconcerned, retires to his Provencal home.



Hamlyn: ruthless

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# Tears must not blind our MPs

Magnus Linklater on a wise response to Dunblane

Advancing an argument against a tidal wave of human emotion is never an easy thing to do. Anyone who was in Dunblane on March 13, along with queues of harrowed parents waiting to find out whether their children were alive, understands instinctively what they feel about guns. If there was one thing that united them all, apart from their grief, it was the deep conviction that no one, ever again, should have access to the kind of weaponry used by Thomas Hamilton to destroy 17 lives.

As details emerged of the lethal firepower at his disposal, that conviction was reinforced. The overwhelming cry was for handguns to be banned. Dr Mick North, a widower whose only child, a five-year-old girl, was killed, summed up the national sentiment: "For all our sakes, no more guns and no more worship of guns."

It is a view that has since gathered huge support. The Dunblane parents who have lobbied with single-minded intensity for the ownership of all handguns to be banned have collected 700,000 signatures. They have won backing from the Labour Party, from teachers, unions, and the great majority of ordinary voters who have been polled on the issue. Most people, when asked, in the words of one Dunblane campaigner, whether "the rights of 57,000 gun owners outweigh the life of one child" have answered with a resounding "no".

Hence their disgust on learning that not all MPs necessarily agree. The disclosure that the Commons Home Affairs Committee has failed to agree on a united policy on handguns and has come out against a ban on private ownership is regarded as a betrayal of the Dunblane children.

The realisation that it has split along party lines, with six Conservatives outvoting the five Labour members, has only served to compound the anger. The result suggests that an issue which should cut across all party divisions will, when it comes before the House of Commons, degenerate into just another political wrangle.

The immediate reaction, and the easy one, is to assume that once again, vested interests, in the form of the gun lobby, have won the day; that, just as change after the Hungerford massacre was limited to automatic weapons, so Dunblane will be followed by weak and ineffective legislation — a mild tightening of existing laws, a slap on the wrist for police procedures perhaps, a nod in the direction of more efficient vetting of licence applicants. Otherwise the gun clubs and their members will be left largely as they are.

That ignores two things. The first is that what has actually divided the MPs is not so much the principle of restricting handguns as the best way of achieving it. The other is that Lord Cullen, whose exhaustive report on

the massacre will be the only one that ultimately matters, is unlikely himself to propose a blanket ban on private ownership. He is all too aware of the impracticality of an all-out prohibition and the risks of driving gun-ownership underground. He is a man who prefers to work with the grain than against it, and I am willing to bet that what he does recommend will be far more effective than some of the instant and emotive solutions which are currently being canvassed.

Those who have attended the inquiry have noted the time and attention he has given to striking a balance between the interests of the public and those of the shooting fraternity — though there has been no mistaking in which direction his sympathies lie.

He has shown a particular antipathy towards the use of rapid-firing arms and seems likely to recommend a complete ban on self-loading semi-automatics. He has spent many hours on the inadequacy of procedures for granting firearms certificates, on the legal manufacture of home-produced ammunition, and the means by which a member

of a gun club can have access to as many as 25 guns if he wants. All these are likely to feature among his recommendations.

What in the end may be more important, however, is the effect of his conclusions on national attitudes to the culture of the gun.

In Australia, where the Port Arthur massacre has had almost as profound an effect on popular opinion as Dunblane, this has been a central feature of the debate. John Howard, the Prime Minister, has won impressive cross-party and inter-state support for legislation banning the use of military-style automatic and semi-automatic rifles by force of a simple argument. He has asked Australians whether they want to pursue the American approach, with its inalienable right to carry guns, or whether they want a safer society. The answer has been resoundingly in favour of the latter, with the result that legislation is likely to be in place by the end of this year despite opposition from a vociferous gun lobby. Handguns have not, as in Britain, been at issue, and will remain legal but can only be held under tightly controlled licence. The types of weapons used by Martin Bryant at Port Arthur will be banned altogether.

Lord Cullen will want to take the public with him in just the same way. But he knows that unless the police, the gun clubs, the doctors, councillors and social services who will all be instrumental in making his recommendations stick are convinced that they are workable, he will have failed in his purpose.

The worst disservice he could do to the Dunblane parents would be to listen too closely to the expressions of outrage that have greeted the Commons committee decision, and to allow the heart to rule the head.

## An outright ban on handguns would be impractical



# Crown and constitution

We are all stakeholders in the monarchy, guardian of our liberties

The personal problems of the Royal Family have distracted attention from the much more profound constitutional issues which would have to be faced whatever the royal personalities were. The monarchy is the pivot of Britain's constitutional machinery. Constitutional changes are bound to affect the functioning of the Crown.

This is even true of the proposal to remove hereditary peers from the House of Lords. That would leave the monarchy, with the hereditary offices of the Court itself, as the only survivor of the hereditary part of the British constitution. The exclusion of hereditary peers would be a further attack on the hereditary idea itself, an idea which once seemed so natural but now seems quite unnatural to many people. Anything which isolates the monarchy probably tends to weaken it, and the abolition of hereditary peers would be a small step towards an elective presidency.

Scottish devolution is potentially a much greater problem. Its critics argue that the proposed Scottish parliament will inevitably quarrel with the Westminster Parliament and will eventually lead to the breakup of the United Kingdom. In theory, an independent Scotland could choose to become a member of the Commonwealth, while retaining the Queen as Queen of Scotland. Canada, Australia and New Zealand have kept the Queen so far, though there is strong republican feeling in all three countries. Yet if Scotland does break away from the United Kingdom, it is likely to be as a result of angry controversies which may portray the Crown as an English institution, despite its long Scottish history. There is at least a strong possibility that an independent Scotland would become some sort of European republic.

The Welsh case is more remote, but is still quite difficult. The Welsh Nationalists certainly regard the Crown as an alien English institution, and have made noisy protests against the Queen herself. Indeed, the monarch is more remote in Wales than in Scotland, where Holyrood, Balmoral and the Queen's role in the Scottish Church form strong historic links. There is no royal home in Wales, and it may now be too late to establish one: it might merely become a focus for nationalist protests.

These devolution issues are much more important than those of the House of Lords; the European issues



The Queen in Parliament: tradition underpinning reform

are even more important than those of devolution. If Britain fulfils the full intentions of the Maastricht treaty, and becomes a subordinate province in a single European state, with a single currency, a single tax system, a powerful court, a powerful parliament and a single voice in foreign

republican government of Europe, over which the voters have next to no control. We cannot vote out Brussels. It is ironic that the triumph of the democratic over the hereditary principle in Britain which would be represented by the abolition of the hereditary peers may coincide with the triumph of the bureaucratic over the democratic principle in Europe.

The 20th century may have seen both the morning and the afternoon of European democracy.

In the modern British constitution, the function of the Crown is to be a focus for the unity, the independence and the democracy of the United Kingdom. So long as the United Kingdom remains united, independent and democratic, the Crown will remain as a powerful symbol of national identity.

If the United Kingdom disintegrates, and British democracy is subsumed in a European bureaucracy, the Crown will have lost its function, but the British people will have lost their liberty. We are all, in the new Labour phrase, stakeholders in the monarchy.

## William Rees-Mogg

# The title is more than academic

Roger Scruton wants fewer professors

Professor was once a rare title in Britain, a mark of distinction which indicated that someone had competed successfully for a chair. Chairs were few and far between, and the privileges attached to them carried a duty to live up to the title. This was especially so in my own field of philosophy, where posts named after benefactors or famous people stood like beacons above the intellectual landscape. Whoever occupied the White's Chair of moral philosophy or the Wykeham Chair of logic at Oxford did so not because he was good at a certain job but because he was as eminent as an academic philosopher could be.

The reputation of those chairs remains. But by an inexorable process, the title of professor has lost its dignity. The expansion of the universities during the 1950s and 1960s produced a plethora of chairs, and only a meagre fund of talent from which to fill them. It was inevitable that the curriculum, too, would then expand, in order to provide for students who lacked the capacity for scholarship and needed "relevance" instead. New subjects were constructed for political rather than intellectual reasons: cultural studies, social work, media studies, women's studies, peace studies, "education", and international relations — each with its salaried professorial, its "learned" journals, "peer assessment", and higher degrees. Finally, in a move to which almost no one objected, the polytechnics were renamed as universities, so that a new wave of "university professors" emerged from the ranks of those who were so intellectually feeble that they had not been able to obtain a university lectureship even during the Sixties, when lectureships were two a penny.

It is not surprising, then, that Oxford academics, who could obtain the title of professor in the twink of an eye elsewhere, should have pressed the university to confer it on them in any case. In a heroic gesture of capitulation, Oxford has created 162 new professors, who will have the title but no chairs, so that only those who are already able to tell the difference between first-rate and second-rate scholarship will know which Oxford professor truly deserves the title. And for such people the title serves no function in any case.

Does this matter? I am inclined to think that it does. One of the valuable features of the British university system is that intellectual distinction has always been recognised as a good in itself — a good that has nothing to do with teaching or administration. The title of professor was the sign of this. You knew that someone who enjoyed it stood above the heads of his colleagues: his works and thoughts were to that extent more worthy of study, and he himself more worthy of esteem. There was an intellectual status to which the academic life could lead, which had no equivalent in terms of money or power, and which was also recognised by the world outside. The title was a public acknowledgement of this status and a way in which the university legitimised its scholarly isolation.

In America, the title of professor is borne by every university teacher. Professor means teacher; and to be called professor is no different from being called "sir" by children in a classroom. This suits the American temperament and it accords with the egalitarian nature of American education, in which any student, however dismal his talents, can collect a degree, simply by signing on for the right courses and repeating what his "professor" wants to hear. The "grade inflation" which affects American degrees affects also the titles of those who teach for them. For every Professor Quine or Kripke, there are a hundred others teaching Elvis, aerobics, feminism, marketing, football, "quest theory" or whatever is in your professor's head today.

The professors themselves begin to see their role in political terms, hoping thereby to attract the admiration of their students and the attention of the world outside. Political correctness is one result of this. Another is the literature of American feminism: attention-seeking screams from small-minded hysterics, for whom the title of professor is the beginning and not the end of their labours. In such circumstances, to be a professor is less a mark of distinction than a licence to bore.

Many complaints have been made against the politicisation of our universities. Until now, however, these complaints have been largely ungrounded. By holding on to the distinction between the university and the polytechnic, our educational system explicitly acknowledged the difference between disinterested learning and the pursuit of "relevance".

Little by little, however, we are moving in the American direction, where there will be a degree for every student, and a title for every teacher. Only those who already have an education will know where to look for it, while those who have no education will encounter it only by chance.

The author has held chairs of aesthetics and philosophy at London and Boston.

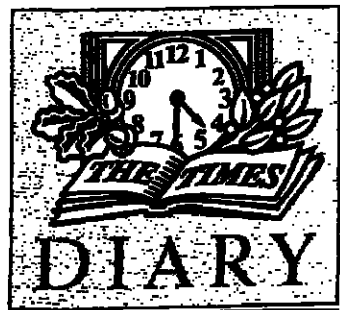
# Bad korma

NOWHERE has Ian Botham and Allan Lamb's libel defeat been greeted with more sorrow than at the Indus Indian restaurant in Doncaster. Botham had booked his favourite curry house for a triumphal feast this weekend and eyes were watering in anticipation of a blow-out to make even his binges look like afternoon tea at Lord's.

Botham is booked to take a party of 15 for a night out at the restaurant owned by Karim Din, who acted as a character witness for him in the trial. A special fresh lobster banquet was planned by staff, who are clearly in awe of Beefy's prodigious appetite.

"He eats a lot of food. He can eat a hell of a lot," says Din's son, John, reverently. "He's been coming here for about 20 years and we send him food for his charity walks. He loves his onion bhajis. We gave him 300 to last the week last time. He can eat them."

A week's provisions to blast Botham on his way doesn't stop there. "A hundred spare wings (sic), 120 seekh kebabs, 100 mince-meat kebabs, 60 landoori chickens, 50 king prawns, 130 chicken tikkas and 40 portions of rice," lists John



of one Botham order. "He had a few friends with him." At the Indus they hope Botham will still drop in to cheer himself up. "But perhaps it will be a little less extravagant." Local residents are said to be more than a little relieved.

## Shove over

THERE has been an extra edge to the sweaty struggles in the Olympic freestyle wrestling ring, where brother has been pitched against brother. Luchman and Elmadi Zhabrailov are Chechens who refused to compete for Russia because of the political situation. So Luchman, 34, turned out for

Moldavia and Elmadi, 30, was adopted by faraway Kazakhstan. On Tuesday they were drawn against each other. It was a slippery and close-run thing but youth won the day.

"In our culture youth respects the elders and it's the young guys who lose to the older guys," moaned Luchman. But there was no bitterness. Elmadi is now going for gold and the coach shouting him on from the corner is one Luchman Zhabrailov. "Wrestling him is like wrestling me," said Elmadi.

## Bye line

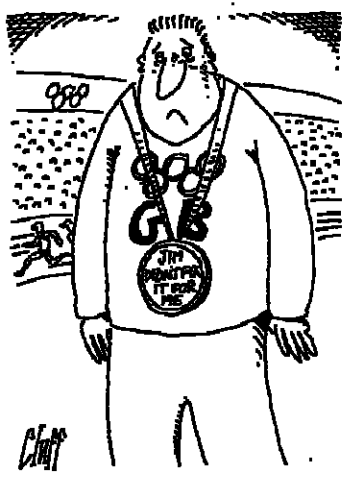
RUMOURS at the *Evening Standard*, London's local newspaper, were flying faster than grouse over heather moors yesterday with journalists expecting an imminent announcement about their tweedy Editor and liberator of Port Stanley, Max Hastings.

Ever since Max's overlord Sir David English was seen taking lunch recently with Dominic Lawson, the Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, gossip-mongers have been hard at it. A fishing holiday to Iceland with the paper's proprietor Lord Rothermere confirmed their worst fears: Rothermere was letting the old boy down gently, perhaps with a "promotion" upstairs.

But by yesterday evening, as hardened newsmen became quivering jellies in the fevered atmosphere, no announcement came. Max was on another holiday, with his friend Michael Green, head of Carlton, and executives began to reassure themselves. "I've never known a rumour about an Editor that has been right," said one. There's always a first time.

## Class acts

SCHOOLBOY Geordies are advised to ignore any careers advice offered by Ram Wallace, deputy headmaster of Gosforth High



School, Newcastle. Ten years ago, he told Alan Shearer that a career in professional football might not be such a good idea. A £15 million transfer later, and Wallace's advice ranks with Daedalus's suggestion that Icarus go get himself a tan: "When Alan said he wanted to be a professional footballer I said: 'Pull the other one...'"

Worse, Shearer was not the first pupil Wallace had poorly advised. He also told the guitarist Mark Knopfler that his adolescent strumming was leading nowhere. Knopfler of course then found Croesus riches with Dire Straits, the hugely successful pop group.

## Family politics

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, is empire building. Yet another member of the extended Bottomley family is now involved in politics. But Tristram Hunt, her cousin, is working as a backroom boy for the Labour leader, Tony Blair.

Tristram's mother, Perdita Hunt, is well-placed as the head of communications at the National Heritage Memorial Fund, which allocates lottery funds, and she is directly accountable to Mrs Bottomley. Young Tristram, who just picked up a First in History from Trinity College, Cambridge,



David Wynne: Princess's trust?

started a few days ago in Blair's office at the House of Commons. The job is not too exacting: he only spends two days a week there.

While his estranged wife cuts her links with 100 charities, the Prince of Wales will be taking unusual interest in one particular charity. Press reports at the weekend focused on a fine-looking chap by the name of David Wynne, an administrator with the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts who's off to work for the Princess. Prince Charles is ABSA's patron.

P.H.S





## LACK OF VISION

Ofot needs better direction

The Office of the National Lottery's self-proclaimed "vision" is to be "recognised as the independent regulator... and to play our part in ensuring that the UK National Lottery becomes the best run lottery in the world". Though it pronounces no verdict on these ambitions, it is hard to imagine that the Public Accounts Committee believes that Ofot has yet hit this target. Yesterday its MPs charged Ofot's Director-General, Peter Davis, with "serious errors of judgment" and spelled out defects in the supervision and choice of the lottery operators, Camelot. The report underlines that Ofot cannot realise its aims under Mr Davis.

As the State transfers economic activity from its own domain to the private sector, so the importance of ensuring high-quality regulation grows. Successful regulation requires integrity, transparency and judgment. These elements must combine effectively "with all due propriety" but so that everyone can feel sure that there is no possibility of impropriety. Nobody has suggested that Mr Davis breached any rules by accepting travel in America from a firm taking an important role in the establishment of the lottery. The award of the lottery franchise had already been made when Mr Davis travelled, and he declared the journeys.

What understandably surprised the MPs was that Mr Davis had difficulty seeing that taking free flights from a lottery contractor might raise questions about his impartiality. The simplest way to avoid clouding a regulatory organisation's reputation is to avoid activities incompatible with strict, evident neutrality. As the rebukes from both the Select Committee and the Heritage Secretary have implied, Mr Davis's mistake was not a failure to respect rules, but a failure to realise that the taxpayer would happily have paid for his flights in order to leave his office untainted by suspicion.

The charge that Mr Davis has exercised his responsibilities in a passive and unimaginative way runs through the MPs' other criticisms of Ofot's reluctance to be tougher with Camelot. The committee's extended interview with Mr Davis corroborates this charge more convincingly than the MPs' report itself. Mr Davis is revealed as instinctively reluctant to act in the open and as a man with a feeble grasp of serving the public interest. The picture now assembled of how Mr Davis came to select Camelot was only put together with difficulty in separate inquiries by the National Audit Office and by the Public Accounts Committee. In Ofot's recent annual report, Mr Davis hints at his objection to being second-guessed by remarking that his balance of priorities "can easily be criticised by those who would prefer a different judgment to have been made". The carping, in other words, is sour grapes from disappointed bidders.

If Mr Davis aimed this barb at the MPs, the claim is absurd. The committee does not say that Camelot should not have been awarded the franchise for the lottery. They do repeatedly say that the way in which the factors were weighed left them worried. Their report is not designed to make Mr Davis change his mind but to get him to take a wider view of his task. They several times urge Ofot's Director-General to take "a more active approach" or a "strong and active role", plainly irritated by Mr Davis's restricted definition of his duties. Should it really be necessary for the MPs to spell out to Mr Davis that he should ensure that all bidders are treated fairly? The MPs thought they needed to, because Mr Davis had reminded them that he had no legal duty to promote competition or a level playing field.

The committee's report leaves one impression clear above all: Mr Davis is not up to his job. Mrs Bottomley, who appointed him, should act accordingly.

## CRIMES OF CONSCIENCE

Sincere ideals are no grounds for acquittal

A clear conscience cannot excuse what to many appears obvious criminal behaviour. The female members of a Christian peace group acquitted of criminal damage to a Hawk fighter jet are sincere women of previous good character but they are also responsible for thousands of pounds worth of damage. Their friends and supporters may rejoice at their freedom but broader liberties are threatened by suggestion that the law may be defied and property wantonly damaged in the name of principle.

Three women, Lotta Kronlid, Andrea Needham and Joanna Wilson, walked free after a Liverpool jury heard how they broke into a British Aerospace factory and caused some £1.5 million worth of damage to a jet. A fourth woman, Angela Zelter, who did not join the three saboteurs but helped plan the attack was acquitted of conspiracy. The women made no attempt to deny the damage but argued they did not have the criminal intent to be convicted. They defended themselves on the ground that they were averting a greater crime by stopping the aircraft being used by the Indonesian government to terrorise occupied East Timor. The jury were happy to accept that the women did not have the necessary criminal intent to be convicted.

Sympathy for the women's political position would not be misplaced. Since Indonesia illegally occupied East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, in 1975 nearly 200,000 people have been killed by the Government, according to Amnesty International estimates. Indonesia's President Suharto is ailing but his armed forces still display a brutal vigour in suppressing the rights of the East Timorese people. They

have done so equipped and, sometimes, trained by the West.

Anger is understandable. But there is no justification for resorting to vandalism to advertise injustice. That way anarchy lies. In a democracy like the United Kingdom impassioned protesters can organise, petition, write, lobby, hector and march. Sound arguments and good organisation can sway opinion and influence governments. Damaging private property is not the way to change public policy. The four women may have been sincere but then so, in their way, are the anti-vivisectionists and Irish republicans who defy the law in the name of ideology. If individual conscience is to be the ultimate court of appeal then there can be no guarantee of the order on which liberty depends. From Robespierre to Raskolnikov those who have placed their principles above the established law have found themselves moral desperadoes.

Justice should, of course, always be tempered with mercy, but that is the judge's duty, not the jury's. In the past juries have acquitted the guilty in order to spare petty offenders cruel punishments or, in Clive Ponting's case, because they may have believed the Official Secrets Act was being used to protect the party in Government and not the State. But it is dangerous for any jury to lay aside the law and prefer empathy to evidence. Justice is blindfold for a reason. The political colouring of an action should be irrelevant to questions of guilt or innocence. The Liverpool four admit their vandalism, and the court that allows them to escape the consequences of their actions is sending a wrong signal to many impassioned protesters.

## PIG-HOO-O-O-EY!

Great Britain could win Olympic gold when pigs might fly

Pig-racing sounds a comical as well as an unpredictable event. The Gadarene tendency of pigs to stampede when prodded in any direction other than their own thrashed way would lead to more false starts and opportunist jostling than even Linford Christie makes. The low undercarriages and short trotters of pigs are not made for jumping. Nevertheless, a steep-leashed pig was held yesterday at the Clogher Valley agriculture show in County Tyrone. There were 20 races for three dozen yearling Duroc large white Landrace crosses. They scampered down a track of 100 metres, jumping fences a foot high. And the runners ran under such whimsical names as Lester Piggott and Douglas Hogg.

But pig-racing is intrinsically no more absurd than women's football or synchronised swimming seemed a century ago. In the primitive modern Olympics men competed at rope-climbing, shooting pigeons, and 100 metres swimming for sailors. These are events no stranger to an objective observer than racing pigs. Horses have longer legs and were painted by Stubbs. But dressage is as bizarre as flying pigs.

Pig has been turned into a joke by the obsolescent and dietetically incorrect British breakfast of bacon and eggs, and by modern factory farming of protein pellets that will soon lead to a scare about mad pig disease. But pig was a fierce hero before he was domesticated. Mythology bristles with destructive and elusive boars that had to be

hunted by the hero as a ritual ordeal. The pig often won. And pig was the ferocious symbol of English kings and the old English forest patrolled by swineherds for the mast.

The English have a familiar relationship with their domestic animals. Dogs look up to them. Cats look down at them. But pigs recognise them for what they are, and look them straight in the eye. Samuel Johnson, England's secular saint, saw their potential. "Pigs are a race unjustly calumniated. Pig has, it seems, not been wanting to man, but man to pig. We do not allow him time for his education; we kill him at a year old."

The British invented sports and codified them in the 19th century. Most sports and games, from cock-fighting to cricket and pugilism were attractive as a spectacle for wasting time away from work and making money by betting. So the Prime Minister and Minister for Sport need hold no post mortems over Britain's "lack of medals" at the Atlanta Olympics. The Games are for individuals. They should not be league tables of chauvinism. Other countries have learnt the rules since London in 1908, when Britain won 56 gold, 50 silver and 39 bronze medals, some for sports odder than pig-racing. But with a committee and codes of conduct for the pig sport, Britain could win gold at Sydney in 2000. No doubt Wisconsin pig-breeders would have a call to make their pigs run faster. But British pigs would have a flying start over the squat Vietnamese pigs from the Pacific nations who are so mortifyingly ahead of us at Atlanta.

## Choice of new UN Secretary-General

From Mr D. John Shaw

Sir, For one who worked in the service of the United Nations system for over thirty years, your news and leader, "After Boutros" (July 25), about the continuing squabbles over the appointment of the next Secretary-General of the United Nations is a reminder of the urgency of arriving at a rational formula for electing the leader of the world's most important institution.

The role of the UN will become even more important in the years ahead as the interlocking crises of population, food, employment, migration, money and debt, energy, environment and human security — all with global dimensions, demanding global solutions — take their toll.

A number of proposals have already been made in the general debate on UN reform concerning the electoral process for the Secretary-General. These include: serious consideration by governments of the necessary qualifications for the post; a single seven-year term; cessation of individual campaigning; agreed rules concerning nominations and a timetable for elections; well organised search for the best candidates worldwide; inclusion of women as candidates; high-level consideration of candidates by governments; and avoidance of an election or selection process that would result in the appointment of the "lowest common denominator".

Is it not time that rules of appointment are drawn up before the process for choosing the next Secretary-General begins? The job and the institution are too important for the old habits to continue.

Yours faithfully,  
D. JOHN SHAW  
(Head, Policy Affairs Service, UN World Food Programme, 1990-94, 112 Kenwood Drive, Beckenham, Kent, July 25.

From the Director of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sir, Your leading article today is far from fair towards Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali and what he has tried to do during his term of office. It makes no mention of the important "Agenda for Peace" which was published in 1992 and subsequently added to, and no mention of the struggles which he endured when the Security Council served out mandates to him in various war zones while failing to give him the resources needed to carry them out.

Nor does it mention his efforts, in a very hostile climate of naked monetarism among some of the protagonists, to seek a renewal of sustainable development priorities and environmental protection.

It is, in our view, quite disgraceful for the American Administration, the biggest debtor to the UN (as you point out), to sound off publicly on the suitability or otherwise of Dr Boutros Ghali for a second term in office. It opens up for close scrutiny the scandal of the veto in a decision which should surely involve all 185 members of the United Nations.

This association has long argued for a proper evaluation of the major challenges and priorities facing the next Secretary-General, of the characteristics he or she should possess, and of how an impartial search should be structured. As you rightly say, the question of single non-renewable appointments should be very seriously considered, with adequate safeguards being built in to ensure that what proves to be a wrong choice can be dealt with.

In the end, it is the quality of the person to fulfil the identified role which is of supreme importance, with gender, regional origin and other criteria being subject to that quality assessment.

Yours sincerely,  
MALCOLM HARPER,  
United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 3 Whitehall Court, SW1, July 25.

## Have no fear

From Mr P. E. Crapnell

Sir, It may seem odd to find holy books in dentists' waiting rooms (letters, July 23, 25, 27). Conversely, on occasion they are not found where they should be.

Many years ago I became aware that it was the practice of one disorganised solicitor to administer oaths to the unsuspecting not on the New Testament but on a copy of Collins "Gem" Dictionary.

Yours sincerely,  
PHILIP E. CRAPNELL,  
Knowle, Brockley Grove, Hutton Mount, Brentwood, Essex, July 26.

From Mr John Harding

Sir, Mr Roger Cookson notes with dread that his dentist keeps a Bible in his waiting room.

Why dread? It is only reasonable that a dentist or any other medical should keep the maker's manual to hand.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HARDING,  
1 Jennings Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, July 24.

## Insiders' recollections of Suez crisis

From Sir Brian Barber

Sir, Lord Rees-Mogg's "insider view" of Suez 40 years on ("How Eden erred at Suez", July 25) strikes me as extraordinary, more for what it leaves out than for what it says.

We are apparently to think that the whole disastrous episode was attributable to understandable political misjudgments by Eden and Nasser.

Not a word about the fraudulent conspiracy with the French; nor about the intentional creation of a situation in which we would claim the right to intervene to stop what we had conspired to start; nor about the deliberate misrepresentation of the grounds for our attack on Egypt; nor about the lies to Parliament and to the British electorate and to the United Nations and to our allies; nor about the grubby way in which even most of our own diplomats were kept in the dark about what our ministers were up to — only a glancing reference to "secret collusion with Israel".

Such a selective memoir of these disgraceful events coming from one who, by his own account, was working for Eden at the time, is bound to raise an eyebrow.

Yours sincerely,  
BRIAN BARBER  
(Colonial Office, 1957-64; HM Diplomatic Service, 1965-94, 10 Melrose Road, SW18, July 25.

From Sir Donald Logan

Sir, Your reviewer (Arts, July 25) of Radio 4's Suez 1956 correctly quotes "an official in Selwyn Lloyd's Foreign Office" (myself) as saying on the programme that it was British policy to free the canal "by negotiation, with war as a last resort". He comments: "That may have been the official version but the facts point in a different direction."

That comment, and the programme on which it was based, are wrong: my statement — based on observation at first hand — remains fully justified.

## Nelson in Naples

From Mr George Taber

Sir, Nelson's meddling in Neapolitan affairs and his treachery on the surrender terms are nicely glossed over in Tom Pocock's article, "Nelson, not by halves" (July 23), on the call by Italian historians for Britain to apologise for the handing of Commodore Francesco Caracciolo on June 29/30, 1799.

With disastrous results, Nelson had encouraged Ferdinand IV, King of the Two Sicilies, to launch an ill-fated land attack on the French garrison at Rome. When the defeated Ferdinand crept back in disguise he was hastily evacuated from Naples to Sicily, where he remained grouse shooting and out of touch.

Caracciolo, Ferdinand's most eminent naval officer, stayed behind at Naples — a man who had no love for the French, and had actually fought alongside Nelson in a British fleet against the French at Genoa in 1795. But, like many other enlightened aristocrats, he loathed Ferdinand and both for his unenlightened rule and his craven flight.

When the republicans finally surrendered, the terms agreed by the royalist leaders ensured all French and rebel troops safe conduct to France.

Nelson arrived on the scene and question of single non-renewable appointments should be very seriously considered, with adequate safeguards being built in to ensure that what proves to be a wrong choice can be dealt with.

In the end, it is the quality of the person to fulfil the identified role which is of supreme importance, with gender, regional origin and other criteria being subject to that quality assessment.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE TABER,  
Winstons Farm, Southbury, Leighton Buzzard, Buckinghamshire, July 23.

From Mr Alfred Latham-Koenig

Sir, Tom Pocock attributes the "uncharacteristic ruthlessness" of Nelson at Naples in 1799 principally to his

From a few weeks after the nationalisation, until 14 days before the resort to force, a massive negotiating process was sustained. It included a mission to Nasser drawn from five widely different countries led by the Australian Prime Minister. By the beginning of October the British Foreign Secretary was deeply engaged in negotiation at the United Nations with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, the French Minister and the Secretary-General.

Of course military planning proceeded in parallel from the start. It would have been folly to delay it until the need for force was established.

True, Eden may have held little hope of negotiation. But many of his colleagues, including the Foreign Secretary, were sincere in this. It was the report of the military that their plans, as developed, could not be applied after the autumn that made the French proposal for concerted action with Israel attractive and urgent to Eden, halting the negotiation and bringing about the "last resort".

Yours sincerely,  
DONALD LOGAN  
(Assistant Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, 1956-58, 6 Thurloe Street, SW7, July 30.

From Mr Donald Bush

Sir, William Rees-Mogg surprisingly does not mention the most disastrous by-product of Eden's Suez adventure. At a time when Khrushchev was holding back his tanks outside Budapest, uncertain and fearful of the West's reaction to any aggressive move on his part, Eden's fumble adventure was a heaven-sent signal that our priorities were elsewhere. The atrocity of Budapest followed.

Yours faithfully,  
D. BUSH,  
1 Court Drive, Waddon, Croydon, Surrey, July 25.

"disturbed state of mind", following recent wounds and his conflict with his superior, Lord Keith, etc.

I think Lord Holland, in his *Memoirs of the Whig Party*, is nearer the truth when he writes of Lady Hamilton's "baneful ascendancy" over Nelson's mind as the chief cause of his conduct at Naples. We know more over that King Ferdinand's wife, Queen Maria Carolina, who was a sister of Queen Marie Antoinette, had a visceral hatred of "Jacobins" and urged Lady Hamilton to use her great influence on Nelson to ensure that he showed no mercy to the Neapolitan republicans.

Yours faithfully,  
ALFRED LATHAM-KOENIG,  
23 Nassington Road, NW3, July 28.

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Winstanley (ret)

Sir, I permitted myself a wry smile on reading that Nelson has been branded a war criminal in Italy.

During the 1960s, whilst I was living in Denmark and serving at a Nato headquarters there, I learned from my Danish friends that Nelson is regarded as a war criminal in Denmark, too. This is the result of his action at Copenhagen, in 1801, when, in disregard of his superior's orders, he continued the bombardment of the neutral Danish fleet.

Yours faithfully,  
R. G. WINSTANLEY,  
6 Ravenscourt Road, Rough Common, Canterbury, Kent, July 25.

From Mr Richard Benyon

Sir, If Italy wants an apology for Nelson's actions, will we get one for Caesar's?

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD BENYON,  
The Lambdens, Beenhams, Reading, Berkshire, July 25.

## Rape victims' distress

From the Director of Victim Support

Sir, Home Office research shows that only a small percentage of women who are raped feel able to report the crime to the police and give evidence in court.

Of those who do, many have described the cross examination in court as being a humiliating event during which they are forced to relive the trauma of the rape in distressing detail.

It is therefore an outrage that the Japanese student who was raped should be expected to endure 31 hours over 12 days in the witness box and be subjected to repetitive cross-examination by each of the six defendants' counsel ("Rape victim will not tell parents", July 25).

I urge the Bar Council to review this case and consider whether better practices should be introduced to ensure that victims in rape cases do not have to suffer such treatment in the future.

Yours sincerely,  
HELEN REEVES,  
Director, Victim Support, Cranmer House, 39 Brixton Road, SW9, July 26.

## Unbound glories of the ancient foot

From Mr John Leatham

Sir, Giles Coren is justified in being offended by the spectacle of men in English feet on holiday ("Turned off by a summer of ugly feet", July 26). The bare human foot should be a beautiful element of our remarkable anatomy (and is the one with perhaps the most complex and wonderful of our bone structures).

Take a look at the feet of the 5th-century BC life-size bronze statue of the *Charioteer* in the museum at Delphi, Greece, described a while ago by an American woman journalist as "the sexiest pair of feet in Europe". Presumably she knew. Or look at the feet, whether nude or sandalled, of other figures carved or modelled in antiquity, or indeed in later centuries. They possess an unconceivable beauty, typical of natives of Mediterranean lands.

The ugly human foot Mr Coren abhors is the product of our habit of confining growing feet in footwear too small and distorting. Our climate still dictates we do not go barefoot in all seasons, but our footwear and habits should allow for the uninhibited growth of our feet.

Indoors at most times and outdoors in clement season (and litter-free places) toddlers especially, but children and indeed adults, should go unshod. Their feet would then be a visual delight, as nature intended them to be, for both Mr Coren and other discerning beholders of the generality of English feet. Moreover, the possessors of such feet would enjoy both pedal comfort and personal satisfaction, albeit perhaps narcissistic.

Sandals whose design replicated any of the elegant and practical (no-buckles) models worn in antiquity would certainly not detract from, though they might not enhance, the natural beauty of the untrammelled human foot.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN LEATHAM,  
Platchaig, Kilmorack, Beaulieu, Inverness-shire, July 26.

From Mr J. H. Wiberg

Sir, Big toes shorter than the next toe are not usually the result of injury. This was, in fact, an arrangement favoured by the classical sculptors.

Yours sincerely,  
J. H. WIBERG,  
11 Oakenbrow, Sway, Lymington, Hampshire, July 26.

## Olympic failure

From Mr D. A. G. Simpson

Sir, I have long admired the dexterity with which you interpret news to discredit the Government and in particular John Major. In the light of the measures which Mr Major took last year to revitalise British sport, your front-page report today that the relatively poor showing of our team at the Olympics "is particularly embarrassing for the Prime Minister" involves such a contortion of reasoning that I fear you may have done yourself a permanent mischief.

Many would consider the Prime Minister should feel most satisfied that he has already taken steps to improve the situation.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID SIMPSON,  
7 Wingfield Street, SE15, July 31.

From Mr Edward W. Clark

Sir, Our nation's performance at the Olympics is mediocre. But does this matter?

Yes, it does. It matters because it provides a window onto the world. We are a member of G7 and yet achieve performances which scarcely match those of the Third World. Our pride is dented. Our international standing is dented.

Why? May I suggest three reasons: a Government that has shown chronic neglect of sport; local authorities that hate school sports and competition; and sports authorities that are amateur and shambling.

This country needs an action plan fast if we are not to sink beneath the waves at Sydney.

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD W. CLARK,  
5 Fitzwilliam Road, SW4, July 31.

## Like nine pins?

From Mr Alwyn James

Sir, Would your readers share my difficulty in explaining to the visitor from Mars that the man we honour as the fastest hurdler on this planet was the runner in yesterday's 110 metres hurdles who knocked down eight of the ten he was trying to jump over?

Yours faithfully,  
ALWYN JAMES,  
2 West Wetherby, Fettes Village, Edinburgh, July 30.

## £15m transfer

From Mr Trevor Austin

Sir, Goals to Newcastle? Yours faithfully, TREVOR AUSTIN, The Old House, London End, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Business letters, page 27

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

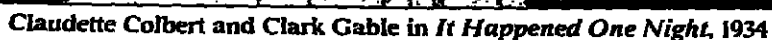






# CLAUDETTE COLBERT

Colbert signed a contract with Paramount but, again with luck on her side, the studio lawyers had omitted to include a starting date on the contract. After she signed, she blithely told the studio that she would be back in six months. She had married the actor Norman Foster, boarded a British



The film cast Colbert as a spoiled runaway heiress who hitches up with Gable, the streetwise journalist, in pursuit of the story. It was the first comedy to walk away with nearly all the important Oscars: for Capra, Gable, Colbert and the writer, Robert Riskin. Colbert thought so little of her chances of winning it, that she was

But by the end of the war even her staunchest enthusiasts had to agree that a mechanical element was intruded into her work. *The Egg and I* (1947) in which she played an egg farmer, was her last big commercial success. Bad luck also had a part to play in her decline. She had to turn down *State of the Union* with Spencer Tracy, because of contractual obligations; and she broke her back before she could set to

Her last big project was the television mini-series, *The Two Mrs Grenvilles* in 1987, in which she played the mother of Ann-Margret. Colbert was a revelation in front of the camera. Now in her mid-80s, she still had the beautiful, unlined face of a much younger woman, and the discipline which half a century in the business had leant her.

# JED JOHNSON

Johnson helped Warhol edit his films and actually directed the 1976 cult classic *Andy Warhol's Bad*. After Warhol was shot by a deranged feminist fan, Johnson moved into the Lexington Avenue townhouse where the artist lived with his mother. In the early 1970s Warhol and Johnson went everywhere together, although it is uncertain if they



Yves Saint Laurent asked Johnson to decorate his apartment in the nearby Hotel Pierre, and after that further illustrious commissions flowed in. Friends credited Johnson with interesting Warhol in "fine old things" and said that his influence probably moved Warhol's art in a more classical direction.

Johnson left the Factory in 1978 to open his own firm, Jed Johnson & Associates. Three years later, he teamed up with his new companion, the architect Alan Wanzenberg. Their company quickly established a distinctive style — spare and

crash on television and immediately feared the worst.

As news spread, friends gathered at the home he shared with Wanzenberg of West 67th Street, just steps from Central Park. Among them were Fran Lebowitz, the writer, and Pat Hackett, the editor of Warhol's diaries. Joan Lunden left the set of *Good Morning America* to comfort his twin brother. Johnson was described by the writer Steven Aronson as "soft-spoken" but with "something radiant about him."

Jed Johnson remained unmarried.

## DAME JANE DREW

In 1940 Drew established her own architectural practice, employing only female architects. She also served during



Her husband, Max died in 1987 and one of her twin daughters from her first marriage also died in a car crash. She is survived by her other daughter.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

### FLATSHARE

**RAYNATHAN** has room for his max 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000, 1002, 1004, 1006, 1008, 1010, 1012, 1014, 1016, 1018, 1020, 1022, 1024, 1026, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1034, 1036, 1038, 1040, 1042, 1044, 1046, 1048, 1050, 1052, 1054, 1056, 1058, 1060, 1062, 1064, 1066, 1068, 1070, 1072, 1074, 1076, 1078, 1080, 1082, 1084, 1086, 1088, 1090, 1092, 1094, 1096, 1098, 1100, 1102, 1104, 1106, 1108, 1110, 1112, 1114, 1116, 1118, 1120, 1122, 1124, 1126, 1128, 1130, 1132, 1134, 1136, 1138, 1140, 1142, 1144, 1146, 1148, 1150, 1152, 1154, 1156, 1158, 1160, 1162, 1164, 1166, 1168, 1170, 1172, 1174, 1176, 1178, 1180, 1182, 1184, 1186, 1188, 1190, 1192, 1194, 1196, 1198, 1200, 1202, 1204, 1206, 1208, 1210, 1212, 1214, 1216, 1218, 1220, 1222, 1224, 1226, 1228, 1230, 1232, 1234, 1236, 1238, 1240, 1242, 1244, 1246, 1248, 1250, 1252, 1254, 1256, 1258, 1260, 1262, 1264, 1266, 1268, 1270, 1272, 1274, 1276, 1278, 1280, 1282, 1284, 1286, 1288, 1290, 1292, 1294, 1296, 1298, 1300, 1302, 1304, 1306, 1308, 1310, 1312, 1314, 1316, 1318, 1320, 1322, 1324, 1326, 1328, 1330, 1332, 1334, 1336, 1338, 1340, 1342, 1344, 1346, 1348, 1350, 1352, 1354, 1356, 1358, 1360, 1362, 1364, 1366, 1368, 1370, 1372, 1374, 1376, 1378, 1380, 1382, 1384, 1386, 1388, 1390, 1392, 1394, 1396, 1398, 1400, 1402, 1404, 1406, 1408, 1410, 1412, 1414, 1416, 1418, 1420, 1422, 1424, 1426, 1428, 1430, 1432, 1434, 1436, 1438, 1440, 1442, 1444, 1446, 1448, 1450, 1452, 1454, 1456, 1458, 1460, 1462, 1464, 1466, 1468, 1470, 1472, 1474, 1476, 1478, 1480, 1482, 1484, 1486, 1488, 1490, 1492, 1494, 1496, 1498, 1500, 1502, 1504, 1506, 1508, 1510, 1512, 1514, 1516, 1518, 1520, 1522, 1524, 1526, 1528, 1

## U.S. SPACE CRAFT HITS THE MOON

Ranger struck the surface of the Sea of Clouds at 42 seconds after 0.25 Eastern Standard Time. The impact spot was within eight or 10 miles of the exact spot on the moon at which it had been aimed from about 230,000 miles away on Tuesday morning. By the time of impact its photographs were already secure on 35mm. film and electronic tape at the Goldstone tracking station in the California desert, where preliminary analysis suggested that litter as small as a car wheel would be discernible on the face of them.

The photographs will be made available as soon as they can, together with the analysis of experts, who are particularly interested in finding a suitable landing place for the first man to go to the moon. It is for this reason that a smooth area such as the Sea of Clouds was chosen as a target. Ranger approached at

## ON THIS DAY

some 5,850 m.p.h. taking pictures from about 1,100 miles above the lunar surface to about half a mile above its landing point. The closest picture taken covers an area of about 3,600 square feet and the farthest an area of several thousand square miles. Because the lighting conditions on the moon were unknown, the two wide-angle and four narrow-angle television cameras were equipped with different lenses. Some of the photographs may, therefore, be of little use, but officials were confident that many would be of fine quality and definition.

Man has thus scored another triumph over

The Russians, as Mr Johnson noted, have also had trouble in their effort to pierce the layer of cloud round the moon which impedes telescopic photography from earth. The President said that many of the Soviet failures had been unpunished, but they confirmed the complexity of the task.

The Ranger space craft, which was launched by an Atlas Agena rocket at seven seconds after 9.50 (Eastern Daylight Time) on Tuesday, looks in flight like a huge dragonfly. A dish-shaped antenna represents the head, two solar panels the wings, and a long cone-shaped body carries electronic equipment and cameras. With the solar panels extended, the space craft has a wing span of 15ft and is just over 10ft high. . . .



# Gîte holiday firms merge after three-year slump

By STEVE KEENAN

THE end of a British love affair with rural cottage holidays in France has forced the merger of the two biggest operators in the sector. Brittany Ferries has taken over the UK operations of Gîtes de France. Together, the two companies will have more than 2,000 gîtes on offer.

The deal is described as a joint venture. But in reality, the London offices of Gîtes de France will be reduced to a shell after three disastrous years of trading. The company's sales fell from 100,000 customers in 1993 to an estimated

20,000 this year. Staff numbers have been reduced from 40 to 15 over the same period.

The news came as Britain's biggest operator, Thomson, this week confirmed it has scrapped its French Riviera self-catering and hotels programme for 1997 because of poor sales. While the Channel Tunnel and a ferry price war has encouraged short breaks to France, summer holiday sales are 23 per cent down. Self-catering is the worst hit at 40 per cent down.

Kingsland Holidays, which specialised in France, folded two months ago and several other self-

catering operators are in trouble. David Longden, operations director for Brittany Ferries, said: "Self-catering in France has been battered in the last couple of years and we need to bring it back into context."

Both companies have tried to improve the gîte product. All-in pricing was introduced in 1995 in some gîtes, scrapping heating supplements and forcing owners to provide linen and towels. But many owners refused to co-operate, and there has been little renovation.

One French tourism expert said: "They don't realise they have to move with the times. Some owners

provide linen and some, especially in the south of France, built pools — but a lot of gîtes have remained the way they were 20 years ago."

At its peak, Gîtes de France provided 21 per cent of all gîte business from Britain and was at the forefront of attempting change, holding seminars to inform gîte owners of the changing nature of the British market. The company tried to diversify into short breaks, B&B, activity holidays, theme parks and ski holidays. These ideas were shelved this year as the company again focused on regaining lost ground in the gîte market. But a

recent board meeting voted for the merger with Brittany Ferries. No money is involved.

Other operators to France agree that gîte appeal has been fading since Britain dropped out of the ERM in 1992 and sterling fell against the franc by 25 per cent. "Our experience over the past two years is that it is a very tough market," said Conrad Morris, general manager of EuroVillages. "The two-week self-catering holiday in France has fewer fans. Now people are taking one week or short-break holidays and staying in the north of France."

The top-end market for villas with pools in France or large houses capable of accommodating two or three families has remained strong. But Brittany Ferries says it will put resources into rejuvenating the gîte market, while cutting costs by merging sales teams, databases and booking systems.

It will move Gîtes de France operations to Plymouth and produce separate 1997 brochures for gîtes and holiday homes owned by Britons. The merger will give it a dominant share of the gîte market and help it to diversify away from ferry operations.

## BA starts trials for ticketless flights

By DAVID CHURCHILL

SEVERAL passengers on flight BA2015 from Aberdeen at 6.45 this morning will be the first frequent travellers to use British Airways' ticketless travel system, which starts its "live" trials on the Aberdeen-Gatwick Shuttle route.

The travellers will have arrived at the airport without any traditional airline ticket and simply used their credit cards to "swipe" through an automatic reader at the terminal. This will confirm their reservation, held in the airlines' computer system, and offer them the facility to change their seat location simply by touching the screen.

"We are the first airline in Europe to offer such an on-screen seat changing facility," says Gavin Halliday, BA's UK marketing distribution manager. "The screen displays 'real-time' seat availability and enables, for example, two colleagues to sit together."

Passengers are then automatically given a boarding pass and join the plane in the normal way. A similar "ticketless" machine is in operation at Gatwick for flights to Aberdeen. At present the self-service system is geared to passengers with hand luggage only; those with hold luggage can check in via the desk in the normal way.

The new system is aimed at frequent business travellers who may make reservations at the last minute or do not want to go through the hassle of having a ticket reissued if they change their flight.

For the present, bookings can only be made through BA Ticket Shops or by telephone and a credit card is needed to confirm the reservation. Passengers who are members of BA's Executive Club are also asked to register their membership number as an additional security check and to ensure that Air Miles and membership points are correctly allocated.

From November, BA will also accept ticketless reservations through Hogg Robinson and Portman Travel outlets. If the scheme proves a success, it will be rolled out on other UK routes early next year.

## Visitors flock to taste life at court

RECREATING the past in royal palaces so visitors can experience court life as it was centuries ago is adding to their success, Tony Dave writes.

The best year yet, in both commercial and tourism terms, was reported yesterday by the agency responsible for Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace and the Tower of London, all of which now feature displays capturing the atmosphere of the past.

The Historic Royal Palaces Agency reported a 9 per cent rise in commercial income to £28.4 million in the last financial year as the palaces welcomed more than four million tourists from 75 countries.

David Beeton, chief executive, said: "It is not our overriding purpose to increase visitor numbers but to give them a memorable experience."

Hampton Court attractions include the world's largest and oldest surviving kitchens, with real fires, real food and real staff in period costume, as well as the Privy Garden, restored to its design of 1700.

The agency is one-third of the way through work at Kensington Palace to show how the Royal Family lived and the court operated in the early 18th century and also has plans for the White Tower, at the Tower of London following the move of some of its collection of armour to the new Royal Armouries museum in Leeds.

The agency required £4.2 million from the taxpayer last year, however, because the cost of maintaining and securing the properties exceeded commercial income, but the figure was much lower than in the past. However, the financial position means that tourists who have complained about the high cost of visiting the palaces — £7.50 a person on average — cannot expect cheaper entrance fees.

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## PINKERTON'S EYE



A monthly column from the security and detection agency

### LOW RISK

THE Eta separatist bombing campaign along the coastal regions of Spain is expected to continue. The United States is considered a low risk destination following recent incidents but passengers should expect at least an extra 30-minute wait at check-in counters. On July 26 six bystanders were wounded in a street shooting in San Francisco.

### Moderate Risk

On July 27 a raid on the Jakarta headquarters of the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) triggered widespread rioting. The ousting of PDI President Megawati Sukarnoputri is likely to continue to cause unrest. Also in Indonesia a report claims that thousands of people, including foreigners, have been victimised by "criminal hypnotists" who induce them to hand over jewellery and money. August 24 marks the twelfth anniversary of the beginning of the PKK campaign in Turkey. This period has previously resulted in kidnapping and bombings. After three railway bomb incidents in as many days, rail travellers in Russia are advised to be cautious.

### HIGH RISK

Bands of gunmen in Colombia are roving through small towns in Antioquia department killing peasants accused of ties with guerrillas. A series of unclaimed bombings plus recent threats to US concerns in the Pakistan's Punjab province make it a high-risk area. On July 26 a police station in the central area of Lima, Peru, was car bombed.

### EXTREME RISK

Algeria remains volatile following the killing of Djamei Zitouni, the former leader of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) who is believed responsible for last year's bombing campaign in France, an Air France hijacking and the murder of trappist monks. A more recent hijacking, this time an internal flight, ended without injury on July 24. The security situation in Burundi is in a state of flux after the Tutsi-led army installed a junta government on July 25, travel here is not advised. LTTE insurgents (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) have damaged hopes of peace in north and east Sri Lanka following military actions and the train bombing south of Colombo.

Pinkerton 0181-424 8884

## Thomson to kill off last-ditch bargains

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

CUT-PRICE package holiday deals advertised at the last moment will have disappeared within the next three years, according to Britain's biggest tour operator.

Charles Newbold, managing director of Thomson, said this week that holidaymakers will have to learn that the earlier they book the lower the price, and vice versa.

"It will take two or three years to turn the industry around," he said. "But we will complete the job in 1998."

Thomson introduced "flexible pricing" last year in an effort to reduce the £36 million it cost the company in 1995 to dispose of 293,000 holidays still unsold weeks before the departure date.

Although the scheme — by which discounts are offered when the brochures first go on sale, rather than at the last minute — was not brought in until after Christmas, only 141,000 last-minute bargains have been sold this year, and next year Mr Newbold is confident of halving that number again.

"If people are chatting on their sunbed and discover that their neighbour has paid less for his holiday because he booked early, then it will catch on quickly," Mr Newbold said.

Brochures for summer 1997 go on sale today with prices about 3 per cent higher than this year. "But nobody who books now will pay that price," said Mr Newbold. "We guarantee to discount by between £20 and £100 per couple, depending on the cost of each holiday."

Computers will be checked each day and when holidays are selling well at the dis-

counted price travel agents will be told to charge the full brochure price again.

According to Thomson's detailed research this should help to stimulate the market and reduce losses.

Thomson delayed the launch of its brochures for 1997 from the beginning of last month, when most of its rivals put them into travel agents. "I said that was a daft thing to do and so it has proved," said Mr Newbold.

So far only around 200,000 summer 1997 holidays in total have been booked, and Thomson expects to sell more than that itself by this weekend.

The sale of Thomson holidays to Cuba has been halted because of fears that senior directors and executives could be barred from entering America or taken to court for "trafficking".

A controversial US Bill known as the Helms-Burton law is designed to prevent foreign companies from trading with Cuba, and especially from dealing in assets originally confiscated by the Communists. Although Cuba appears in the new summer 1997 brochure it will not be on sale until talks have been held at government level to ensure that executives will not be held liable under the US law.

Sunworld, First Choice and Cosmos are continuing to send holidaymakers to Cuba and believe that by using only modern hotels they cannot be accused of "trafficking".

Croatia could become a popular holiday destination again next year. Thomson is offering 25,000 holidays in the northern part of the country after being assured that it was perfectly safe.



Once the merger is complete, visitors to Breckenridge will be able to ski at both resorts using the one ticket

## Resorts link to form US ski giant

By GRAHAM DUFFILL

TWO of America's largest ski resorts, Vail and Breckenridge in Colorado, are merging to produce a huge ski conglomerate.

Breckenridge was the most popular US resort for British skiers last season and the prospect of skiing two of the world's biggest resorts on one ticket will be an even bigger pull.

Although the resorts' slopes are not linked, six ski areas within a 40-mile stretch of Interstate 70 will now be owned by one company and a joint lift ticket with free shuttle bus connections seems a certainty.

Andy Daley, president of Vail Associates, says that is unlikely to happen before the 1997-98 season and will require the permission of the trade commission.

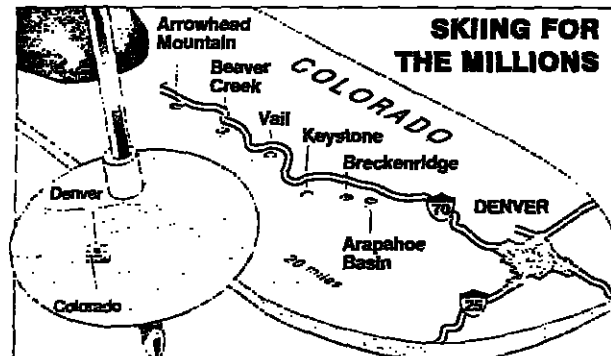
Andy Perrin, Crystal holidays marketing director, says: "It's brilliant news and there will be a lot of pressure on the owners to get over the

problems of putting the resorts on the same lift ticket and have it ready for this season."

British skiing holidays to the States average 12 days and most skiers stay in Breckenridge and ski for a day in Vail. Now they will be able to travel just 40 minutes down the road and ski what have been the two most popular resorts on one ticket. Lots of people hire cars and they will be able to zip around at will.

For the skier who is not put off by being in a huge Florida-style theme park it will be the ultimate ski area. Vail is already so large that the town stretches along three exits from the interstate, has a collection of multi-storey car parks, an outer and inner ring road and 1,100 ski instructors.

Breckenridge's skiing occupies half the area but is still across four linked mountains. The smaller resorts of Beaver



Creek, known for its luxurious homes, Keystone, which has night skiing until 11pm and Arapahoe Basin, with skiing at more than 12,000 feet allowing it to stay open until June, would be included in the package.

The new company, Vail Resorts, estimates it will sell five million skier-days a year and generate an annual turnover of \$300 million. Around 3,000 British skiers went with four operators to Brecken-

ridge last year. A total of 25,000 chose America, with up to 10,000 more making their own travel arrangements.

For years the number of skiers travelling to America was static at a negligible 10,000-20,000, an interesting ski holiday for those who could afford £1,000 a head. Now they cost around £600 a head to the US, with Canada as little as £400. Last season, Canada alone took more than 30,000 skiers.

## Dubai steps up tourist drive

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

EMIRATES, the award-winning airline based in Dubai, has increased seat capacity for its flights into Heathrow and Gatwick with the introduction of two Boeing 777s.

The arrival of the 303-seater aircraft is a measure of Dubai's leap towards a tourist future. The airline, which started with only two aircraft a decade ago, took delivery of its second £125 million Boeing 777 last month. Another five of the

world's most advanced aircraft will join the Emirates fleet in the next year to enhance its reputation as the world's best long-haul airline.

Only 30 years after the discovery of oil transformed Dubai from little more than a Bedouin trading post, the emirate has gone into top gear to meet an enforced second change in its image. Sources indicate that the oil which has allowed Dubai to thrive may

run out in little more than five years and not the 30 years that was previously supposed.

As the oil revenues dry up there are plans for tourism, which accounts for 15 per cent of its income, to more than double by the year 2000.

Huge investments are being poured in to help the country to diversify in readiness. A spokesman for the emirate's Commerce and Tourism Promotion Board said: "Dubai aims to become the Hong Kong of the Middle East. We have not been told when the oil reserves will dry up but it will be pretty soon. Tourism is still very young here and it has become a major project for us."

Holidaymakers from Britain to Dubai have increased by more than 45 per cent since 1993 to 35,000 last year. And this year British tour operators are reporting a 20 per cent rise over 1995.

### TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

Travel the world again in Weekend  
Sandy Gall on the Limpopo Valley Park  
Eric Jacobs in Thailand  
Christopher Somerville in Cape Breton  
Jill Crawshaw's Travel Tips  
Insider's Paris



Sea Empress spillage: the clean-up was a success story for the Welsh tourist industry

## Wales set for another boom

By TONY DAWE

WALES enjoyed its most successful season for tourism last year and the signs are that 1996 will bring another boom for the Welsh tourist industry.

The total number of overnight trips to Wales by people from other parts of Britain increased last year to 10.4 million while the principal attraction 735,000 overseas visitors, 45,000 up on 1994.

"The fine summer weather, a fall in the value of sterling and continued economic uncertainty would appear to have contributed to a strong performance from traditional holiday markets during 1995," the report says.

Tony Lewis, the former international cricketer and

television presenter who chairs the tourist board, welcomes the "clear signs for optimism in Wales" and says the board estimates that tourism contributes at least £1.6 billion to the Welsh economy with nearly one in ten of Welsh working people engaged in the business.

He says, however, that the oil spillage which threatened miles of beautiful coastline earlier this year "served as a vivid reminder of the dynamic forces to which tourism can be subjected". He adds: "The reassurance campaign which coincided with the successful clean-up of the affected beaches was an excellent example of an integrated effort by the industry itself, local authorities and tourism bodies."

The report also notes a reversal in the trend of people

preferring short breaks with a significant increase in the numbers staying for a longer holiday. Occupancy rates in Welsh hotels were better than 1994 for every month of the year and caravan parks also reported an increase in visitors. Self-catering properties fared less well, partly because of "uncompetitive pricing and inflexible letting arrangements".

The board is allocating £8.7 million of government funds over five years to support investment in six resort areas and seven historic towns with the aim of boosting tourism and creating up to 2,000 new jobs. The areas include the Mumbles and Gower Peninsula, the Llyn Peninsula, Aberystwyth and Llandudno, Caernarfon, Caernarvon, Brecon and Machynlleth.

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EXPIRES 15/08



## Bargains of the week — from fly-drive trips in the French Alps to sailing in Sardinia

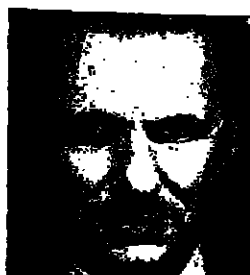
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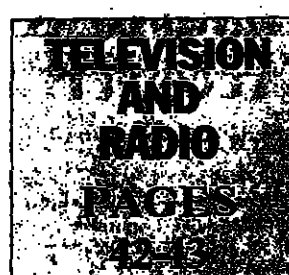
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY AUGUST 1 1996

## Former British Rail managers share £80m profit

By Jonathan Prynn  
Transport Correspondent

THE Government was facing a furious political row over rail privatisation yesterday as 50 former British Rail managers and staff celebrated an £80 million profit from a train leasing company they acquired six months ago.

Labour condemned the £825 million sale of the Porterbrook rolling stock leasing company to Stagecoach as "scandalous" and said it confirmed the public's worst fears about BR being sold on the cheap.

Porterbrook, which leases 3,774 trains to 16 rail companies, about a quarter of BR's former rail fleet, was bought by a management buyout team from the Government in November last year for £527 million.

Management and staff put up about 20 per cent of the £75 million initial equity with the rest financed by Charterhouse, the merchant bank, and bank debt. Yesterday's deal values the equity at £475 million, with the management team's original stake of £15 million now worth about £95 million.

The sale has made multimillionaires of the company's six executive directors, led by Sandy Anderson, the managing director. Middle managers and junior staff, who all invested in the buyout, also stand to make hundreds of thousands of pounds each.

Glenda Jackson, a Labour transport spokeswoman, said: "This is absolutely scandalous. Since Porterbrook was privatised not a single new train has been built or even ordered and yet here are the managers turned into overnight millionaires. Yet again the taxpayer suffers while the fat cat controllers lick the cream."

All the managers and staff involved in the buyout will be staying with the company and Mr Anderson will join the board of Stagecoach. They will have to take Stagecoach shares for about 40 per cent of their holdings in Porterbrook with the remainder in cash or shares.

The £1.8 billion sale of the three rolling stock rail companies, which own all 16,000 former BR locomotives and carriages, was criticised as too low when it was announced by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, in November.

The trains had originally been valued at £3 billion but a two-year worldwide auction held by Hambros Bank, the Government's advisers on the sale, yielded just five serious offers for the companies.

The disposals, the largest made under privatisation, with the exception of the £2 billion Railtrack flotation, were hampered by the political uncertainty surrounding the BR sell-off last year. One bid collapsed days before the offer deadline when National Westminster Bank pulled out.

Yesterday's sale of Porterbrook, which was met with an ecstatic reaction in the City, where Stagecoach shares soared 53p, will fuel criticisms of the Government's handling of rail privatisation.

The deal doubles the size of Stagecoach's rail operations, which now exceed its core coach business. Brian Souter, executive chairman of

Post-merger cost cutting goes on

## New drugs lift Glaxo Wellcome

By Eric Reguly

NEW drugs and continued post-merger cost cutting of costs handed Glaxo Wellcome, the world's largest pharmaceuticals company, higher than expected interim earnings.

The group reported a pre-tax profit of £1.55 billion, or 29.7p a share, in the half year to the end of June, up 34 per cent from the £1.16 billion, or 24.2p a share, in the comparable period a year ago.

The 1995 period includes three-and-a-half months of contribution from Wellcome, which was acquired by Glaxo for £9 billion last year. Sales, on a pro-forma basis, rose 6 per cent to £4.19 billion.

Analysts had forecast pre-tax profits ranging from £1.36 billion to £1.5 billion. The shares climbed after the release of the results, but closed down 4 1/2p at 894 1/2p, after a bout of profit-taking.

Glaxo said that cost savings from the integration of Glaxo and Wellcome were the driving force behind the rise in profit margins from 32 per cent to almost 39 per cent in the half-year period. The group plans to shed 7,000 jobs and save about £700 million a year by the end of 1998.

Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive, said the integration was basically complete although costs would continue to come down until the end of the decade as manufacturing sites were closed and computers made research and development more efficient.

Sir Richard sounded an optimistic note on the future, noting that sales of new products — drugs launched since 1990 — had more than offset the decline of Zantac, the ulcer treatment that has lost its patent protection in Germany and some other markets.

Sales of Zantac, which reached about \$4 billion a year at their peak, making it the world's best selling prescription drug, are set to decline rapidly after mid-1997, when the end of its US protection will trigger an onslaught of generic competition.

Zantac, which accounts for 24 per cent of Glaxo's total

business, had sales of £1 billion in the first half, down 16 per cent. But sales of new products rose 51 per cent to £327 million. The products include Imigran, an anti-migraine drug whose sales grew 78 per cent to £263 million, and Serevent, a respiratory treatment whose sales came to £181 million, up 40 per cent.

Sir Richard said: "This is confirmation that the revenues earned over many years by the pre-eminence of Zantac are being replaced, not by a single successor product, but by a range of important medicines in several key therapeutic areas."

Glaxo hopes to keep the momentum going with the launch of four new products in America before the end of the year. However, not all new products are on the rise. Competition reduced the sales of Zofran, its main oncology drug, by 7 per cent. The company said that Zofran was now "stabilising" and had the potential to expand in new markets.

Some analysts said that the decline in Zantac sales was

higher than expected. The company is trying to play down the impact of the loss of Zantac's patent in the US, but has made no forecasts on the expected sales decline.

Glaxo also played down the likelihood of another acquisition even though it has managed to knock down its net debt to £2.1 billion, from £3.2 billion, at the end of last year through strong cash flow and the sale of its over-the-counter operations for £581 million.

Glaxo does not seem to have the appetite for another hostile acquisition and knows that any large-scale purchase would be disruptive to employees, who are still reeling from the redundancy programme.

Sir Richard said he expected few mega-mergers in the near future. He added: "At the moment, there appears to be a relative degree of stability in the market place."

Glaxo's interim dividend is being maintained at 15p. It said that shareholders would see a satisfactory year-on-year dividend increase.

Pennington, page 25



Gordon Hodgson, Cowie chief executive, yesterday continued the company's spending spree with the acquisition of North East Bus group for £26.5 million. Full story page 25

## Over 1,000 jobs to go at Royal & Sun

By Caroline McKenna

ROYAL & Sun Alliance, the UK's biggest insurance company, announced the closure of 94 branches and the loss of 1,300 jobs yesterday, just ten days after making its stock market debut as a merged company. The move marks the first phase of a two-year redundancies programme.

The insurance company, formed from the merger between Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance, plans to cut its combined worldwide workforce by 5,000 from the current level of 45,000 by 1998. The company claimed that the branch closures were divided equally between the two former companies.

As well as announcing 300 job losses in branches, the company said that it was reducing staff numbers at the former Sun Alliance head office in Hammersmith, West Sussex, by 500 to 2,000, and cutting staff at the Royal's former head office in Liverpool by the same number to 3,000.

The branch closures would increase competitiveness in the direct market by cutting costs substantially, it said.

Further job losses are expected to be finalised at management level later this month. The company also said that it had made 89 management appointments across its four operating divisions.

The insurer is restructuring its management by inviting staff to reapply for their jobs.

## Number of repossessed homes falls in first half

By Sara McConnell

JUST over 24,000 households had their homes repossessed in the first six months of this year, 1,100 fewer than at the same time last year and 110 fewer than in the second half of last year, the Council of Mortgage Lenders said yesterday.

The latest figures confirm the gradual fall in repossessions since their peak in the second half of 1991, although the total has hovered stubbornly close to the 24,500 mark since 1994. In absolute terms the figures are at their lowest for six years.

There was a more marked reduction in the number of households seriously in arrears on their mortgages, with a 13 per cent drop in borrowers 12 months or more behind with payments and a total fall in all arrears of 10 per cent.

Adrian Coles, the director-general of the CML, welcomed the figures as a "considerable improvement", but cautioned against over-optimism. He said: "The key is to get a sustained and gradual recovery."

Mr Coles cited a combination of falling unemployment, affordable mortgages, rising house prices and better arrears counselling and management by lenders as the main reasons for the continuing improvement. But a sharp rise in interest rates could easily throw people back into arrears. Rising house prices allowed lenders to sell 27,810 repossessed homes, up from 26,880 in the second half of last year and 24,230 in the first half of last year. Mr Coles denied that lenders would take advantage of a rising market to increase their repossession activity.

## Bank serves injunction on departing star player

By Jon Ashworth

KLEINWORT Benson has served an injunction on one of its former star players in an apparent attempt to prevent the departure of key clients and staff. Tim Horlick, soon to take up a senior position with Salomon Brothers, has been ordered to hand over confidential papers, and is barred from approaching his former colleagues.

Kleinwort Benson, part of Dresdner Bank, has suffered a number of staff losses recently. Mr Horlick, 35, former co-head of Global Equity Capital Markets, resigned last month to take up a position with

Salomon, which is recruiting aggressively under Peter Middleton, former chief executive of Lloyd's of London. He starts as chief operating officer of European Investment Banking in September.

Mr Horlick's assignments at Kleinwort Benson included the flotation of Deutsche Telekom. He is barred from poaching members of his former team and is threatened with damages for breach of contract and/or wrongful use of information. The move is heavy-handed, even by the standards of the City where departing employees routinely

spend a period of time on "garden leave".

Mr Horlick leaves for France on holiday today. His wife, Nicola, head of asset management at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "The whole thing's a nonsense. Kleinwort has just got completely paranoid and hysterical." She believed the action was linked to a Hungarian issue called MOL2, which was jointly awarded to KB and Salomon soon after Mr Horlick resigned. He worked on the original MOL issue.

There was no comment from Kleinwort Benson.

## Directors at S&N enjoy pay bonanza

DIRECTORS at Scottish and Newcastle brewing group enjoyed pay rises averaging 22 per cent last year (Allsair Murray writes). Brian Stewart, chief executive, saw his base salary increased by 15 per cent, to £348,000, and his bonus payment by 62 per cent, to £63,000, according to the annual report.

There were 24 per cent rises for Guy Dickson, chairman of Scottish Courage (to £273,000), and Ian Hannah, chairman of S&N's retail division (to £293,000), and 23 per cent for Derek Wilkinson, finance director (to £238,000).

## Price proposal hits NIE shares

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

SHARES in Northern Ireland Electricity fell 53p to 353p after the electricity regulator recommended that the company reduce its prices by almost one third next year.

After a year-long investigation into NIE's tariffs, which are 23 per cent higher than the British average, the regulator, Douglas McDoom, recommended changes to NIE's price controls which should result in a reduction of 1p a unit from April next year. The proposed changes would knock 12 per cent off total domestic users' bills and 6 per cent off industry's electricity

costs. The recommendations only directly affect between 20 and 40 per cent of final electricity prices.

However NIE said the proposals could affect the reliability of services and investment in new projects, and would also have a significant impact on revenues. It was "quite surprised at the severity of the proposed reduction", NIE can accept the recommendations or refer the issue to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

NIE recorded a 23 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £107.4 million for the year ended March 1995.



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## Jobs threat as rental chain calls receiver

By Sarah Cunningham

COLORVISION, the television and video rental chain, yesterday asked its bankers to call in administrative receivers, putting 800 jobs at risk.

The board said the company, which has debts of some £15 million, was unable to trade within its credit limits because of poor sales and the continuing impact of problems earlier in the year with the Office of Fair Trading. Arthur Andersen was appointed receiver last night.

In January, the Liverpool-based chain had its consumer credit licence revoked by the OFT after a series of dishonest practices, including selling second-hand goods as new.

In May the OFT agreed not to contest Colorvision's appeal against the revocation of its licence. In return, the founder directors agreed to step aside as part of a financial restructuring, and the company gave assurances about its future conduct.

However, the company said in a statement yesterday that, in common with many other high street stores trading in the consumer durables sector, its sales had not recovered to anticipated levels.

The receiver will look for a buyer for the whole or parts of the 76-branch business, which could help to save the jobs under threat.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.11	1.95
Austria Sch	17.17	15.57
Belgium F	50.24	46.04
Canada \$	2.248	2.089
Cyprus Cyp	0.747	0.692
Denmark Kr	8.45	8.65
Finland Mk	7.58	6.93
France Fr	8.50	7.55
Germany Dm	2.45	2.24
Greece Dr	352	357
Hong Kong \$	12.70	11.70
Iceland Is	113	93
Ireland P	1.01	0.93
Israel Sh	5.31	4.98
Italy Lira	2488	2333
Japan Yen	161.00	165.00
Netherlands Gld	0.555	0.540
New Zealand \$	2.732	2.502
Norway Kr	2.41	2.19
Portugal Esc	10.47	9.57
Spain Ptas	247.50	229.00
S Africa Rd	7.35	6.75
Sweden Kr	205.00	190.00
Switzerland Fr	10.81	10.11
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.82
Switzerland Fr	132.70	124.70
USA \$	1.696	1.528

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Lord Cairns, front left, chairman of BAT Industries; Martin Broughton, front right, chief executive; Sandy Leitch, back left; and David Allvey, finance director; yesterday announcing a 12 per cent rise in BAT's half-year profits

## Unions cite private deals in public-sector push

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

PRIVATE-SECTOR job deals are to be used for the first time by public-sector trade unions as a model in trying to reach a groundbreaking working arrangement for 1.6 million workers in local government.

Public-sector unions, in their attempts to reach, for the first time, a deal covering both manual and white-collar employees in local government, are citing agreements, such as that at Rover Cars, that offer guarantees on job security in return for flexible working and improved productivity.

Although single-status agreements are common in the private sector, they are rare in public-sector areas, such as local government, hospitals, education and the Civil Service.

Now, however, union negotiators, in a series of concentrated negotiations starting next month, are to press for a common agreement for white-collar and blue-collar workers in local government. The agreement is likely to include a "commitment to security of employment", according to

union proposals on the outline of a suggested deal.

Council employers are keen for a single-status deal, but worried about its cost. They are also likely to want to link it to a pay deal due next April, but union leaders want to keep the two elements separate.

Usually, because of job-loss fears, public-sector unions have tried not to use private-sector job developments as models, but local government leaders yesterday cited the success of agreements such as Rover, and said that they

could be emulated in the public sector.

Jack Dromey, public services national secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "Rover and other similar agreements are models of work we like. We played our part in transforming Rover into a world-beater. Now we want to transform local government."

Union leaders said that the single-status claims were the "most significant negotiations in the history of local government".

Mr Dromey said: "We want to achieve by consensus a settlement in local government that will endure for a generation."

Given the strongly female workforce in local government, union officials emphasised that a single-status council deal would be the first such agreement to apply to so many women workers.

Reed is expected to provide more details on its interest in Blenheim next Thursday, when Reed announces its interim results.

## Reed Elsevier eyes Blenheim

By Eric Reguly

REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, is considering making a bid for Blenheim, the exhibitions organiser.

It is biding its time hoping that Blenheim, led by Neville Buch, chairman, will drop the asking price, believed to be about £500 million.

Reed, through Reed Exhibitions Companies, organises about 300 exhibitions a year globally and wants to consolidate its position as one of the largest players. United News & Media, the newspaper and exhibitions company that merged with MAI, has been negotiating to buy

Blenheim for more than a month. But United's exclusive talks agreement has expired and the company would not comment on its intentions.

Reed is expected to provide more details on its interest in Blenheim next Thursday, when Reed announces its interim results.

## BAT aims to expand financial services in Asia

By Alasdair Murray

BAT Industries, the tobacco and insurance company, yesterday said that it is looking at expansion opportunities for its financial services division in Spain and Asia.

BAT hopes to bid for new life-insurance licences in China and India, as well as making an acquisition in Spain.

Sandy Leitch, chief executive of British American Financial Services, said that the insurance division was aiming to grow profits at 20 per cent above previously-set targets over the next five years. He said that the company was looking to cut costs by £50 million during the same period but would not be declaring large-scale redundancies.

Mr Leitch made his comments after BAT announced a 12 per cent rise in half-year profits, to £1.33 billion. Underlying profits, stripping out the sales of two subsidiaries, rose by 8 per cent.

Profits in the financial services division grew by 3 per cent, to £554 million, after an 8 per cent improvement, to £329 million, in the general insurance businesses. Profits in the life and investment business fell by 4 per cent, to £225 million, and the loss on the worldwide underwriting business increased to £52 million, from £28 million.

BAT said that there was an encouraging trend in the life and investment businesses, with Allied Dunbar enjoying a 29 per cent rise in new business premiums.

Tobacco profits continued to grow, in spite of legal battles in the United States. Profits rose by 7 per cent, to £798 million, as cigarette volumes increased by 4 per cent. The American-Pacific region enjoyed a 13 per cent rise in profits after price rises in the US, but profits in the Latin American and European divisions declined. BAT repeated its view that it expects to defeat all current tobacco-related lawsuits in the US.

The interim dividend rises by 8 per cent, to 10p, due on January 3. Shares in the company rose 22p, to close at 504p.

Times, page 26

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## BSE scare takes toll of profits at Sims

THE BSE scare crippled trading at Sims, the meat products group, which recorded a loss of £49.3 million in the year to March 31 after making a pre-tax profit of £4.18 million last year. The group sold its loss-making refrigeration and catering divisions during the winter, for a loss of £30.6 million. It had also arranged the disposal of its core retail division, but this was halted by the BSE warning on March 20.

The remaining businesses made an underlying profit of £2.2 million on sales of £240 million. Although the BSE warning came just 11 days before Sims's year end, the group wrote off £11.3 million against goodwill and ran up redundancy costs of £3.2 million on closing three plants as a result. Losses per share were 141.8p (earnings of 5.2p), precluding a final dividend.

## Recycling group ahead

WASTE RECYCLING GROUP almost trebled its pre-tax profits from £1.14 million to £3.29 million in the six months to June 30, after a new transfer and recycling plant helped to lift sales from £3.29 million to £6.31 million. The company said that its prospects were enhanced by the Government's plans to impose landfill tax, which would prompt waste disposal firms to take a second look at recycling. Earnings were 0.9p ahead at 3.8p per share, allowing for a maiden interim of 0.5p.

## BT serves writ on AT&T

BT and AT&T, its new rival in the domestic phone market, are at war over which offers the best prices. BT has served a writ on AT&T, alleging that America's biggest long-distance carrier infringed BT's trademark and "maliciously" made false statements about its service. The writ came after an AT&T brochure claimed that consumers could save up to 40 per cent on BT international call rates by switching to AT&T. BT plans to make a full statement of claim to the High Court next week.

## Gas wins concessions

BRITISH GAS will never have to publish tariffs for large industrial users and for medium-sized businesses the requirement is on hold until this time next year. The concessions mean that British Gas does not have to reveal commercially sensitive price information while its competitors do not, allowing them to undercut its rates. Ofgas, the industry regulator, made them yesterday after a review into the state of competition in the market.

## Thames Water buyback

THAMES WATER repurchased 10 per cent of its capital, buying 41.36 million shares at 543p per share, in a £224.5 million deal. The share price slipped 5p to 540p after the move reduced demand in the market. David Luffman, finance director, said the move, agreed by shareholders at the annual meeting, would improve the company's capital structure. The company said the buy-back would leave adequate balance-sheet strength to meet investment plans.

## ScottishPower setback

SCOTTISHPOWER has failed in the High Court to win a judicial review of the way generating costs are reflected in the cost of electricity. The action followed the Monopolies and Mergers Commission granting of a dispensation to Scottish Hydro-Electric after that company sought a referral over a decision on generating costs. Yesterday ScottishPower said that it would cut its rights issue to raise £240 million rather than £589 million to back its purchase of Southern Water.

"Do you really want to be behind on travel insurance?"

### A very down to earth question.

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This notice is issued in compliance with the requirements of the London Stock Exchange Limited (the London Stock Exchange). It does not constitute an offer or invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase any shares.

Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of Dairy Crest Group plc to be admitted to the Official List of the London Stock Exchange. It is expected that admission to the Official List will become effective and that dealings in the ordinary shares will commence on 28 August 1996.



## DAIRY CREST GROUP plc

(Incorporated in Great Britain under the Companies Act 1985 and registered in England and Wales with number 3162897)

Placing by Schroders  
of 33,000,000 shares at 155p per share and

Underwritten Issue  
to Eligible Producers of 69,899,942 shares

Rolling Fund Offer  
of 6,892,954 shares at 155p per share

### SHARE CAPITAL FOLLOWING THE OFFERS

Authorised		Issued and fully paid
Number	Amount	
146,400,000	£36,600,000	ordinary shares of 25p each
		Number 110,575,999
		Amount £27,843,750

A prospectus dated 31 July 1996 (the "Prospectus") relating to the Offers has been published. Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday from the date of this notice up to and including 5 August 1996 for collection only, from the Company Announcements Office, London Stock Exchange, Stock Exchange Tower, Capel Court entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 1HP and during normal business hours up to and including 16 August 1996 from:

The Company	The Sponsor	The Broker	The Registrars
Dairy Crest Group plc Dairy Crest House Portsmouth Road Surbiton Surrey KT6 5QL	J. Henry Schroder & Co. Limited 120 Cheapside London EC2V 6DS	Hoare Givett Corporate Finance Limited 4 Broadgate London EC2M 7LE	Lloyds Bank plc Registrar's Department The Causeway Worthing West Sussex BN99 6DA

1 August 1996



□ Problems loom from patent losses □ Less-than-stinging rebuke for Davis □ Kepit investors offered a way out

## Glaxo heads for cold turkey

JUST when everything seems to be going well with the Glaxo Wellcome marriage, here come the first signs that the honeymoon is over. At the world's largest pharmaceutical concern the numbers are again looking respectable. Earnings and sales are rising, debt is falling and ruthless cost-cutting has restored profit margins. So why are the management reaching for their (spectacularly successful) ulcer pills?

By this time next year, Glaxo will have lost the American patents on those two drugs, Zantac and Zovirax, almost entirely responsible for its success. Zantac, the ulcer treatment launched in 1981, saw peak annual sales of some \$4 billion. Loss of patents in a few markets, notably Germany, has since reduced these to \$3 billion, but they still account for a quarter of total revenues.

As 1997 approaches, Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo's chief executive, and other senior managers have been telling everyone who will listen that concerns about the effects of generic competition are overblown. Fear not, they say, because new products will more than take up the slack. Indeed, new products, defined as those drugs introduced since 1990, have so far more than offset Zantac's decline. The question is whether they will continue to do so when Zantac falls off a cliff in America next year.

But a couple of warning signs suggest that Sir Richard and company are more scared than they appear. The first is their refusal to predict the size of the fall in Zantac sales. You can bet that we would hear about it if the expected decline was anything less than the City's most pessimistic guesses.

The second and more telling sign is that Glaxo is not going out of its way to court American investors. In the early 1990s, about 27 per cent of Glaxo's shareholders were American. They have been fleeing in droves as part of the American disenchantment with anything produced by men in lab coats, and now own about 10 per cent.

In normal times, Glaxo would wind up the investor relations machine and schmooze every institution in the land to win them back. The only reason they are not is fear of making potentially misleading comments to America's insanely litigious investment community. Zantac might lose just one third of its market share in the first year — or it might be obliterated. Glaxo is being understandably careful. American institutions have long memories, and a company that

derives almost half of its sales in the US cannot afford to lose Wall Street's confidence.

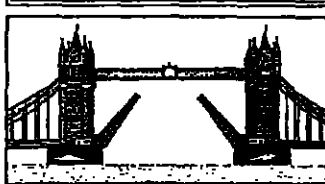
In the end, Glaxo will probably overcome Zantac's decline. SmithKline Beecham proved that the promise of new products can mask many problems. That company is growing strongly even though sales of its own Tagamet compound, Zantac's main competitor, plummeted by 75 per cent after the drug lost its US patent in 1994. Glaxo, however, is much more reliant on Zantac than SmithKline ever was on Tagamet. Glaxo's recovery period is bound to take correspondingly longer.

### Word to the unwise over Lottery award

THE award of the contract to run the National Lottery is developing into one of those fine Establishment scandals where the facts are buried forever under an avalanche of weasel words and evasion. Readers may remember the evidence to the Public Accounts Committee in the spring from Peter Davis, the Lottery regulator.

Mr Davis had awarded the

PENNINGTON



contract to an American business with a less than spotless reputation, with one of whose executives he had enjoyed a family friendship. The leitmotiv from his evidence was "concern". He had thought about it long and hard. He had told others of his concern. Then he gave the job to the Americans. After that he enjoyed trips around the US to various state lotteries in a jet owned by that same business, GTEch. His reason for accepting such largesse? To save the British taxpayer money.

Mr Davis is entitled to put the best construction on his behaviour, but one might have expected more from the MPs. Yet the leitmotiv from the PAC, in the bowdlerised report that emerged yesterday after an earlier, more trenchant attack on

Mr Davis had been toned down, is "unwise". Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, thought it might not have been wise to spend so much time on that corporate jet. MPs agree, and think it unwise to have used the jet to visit his friend's home.

For Joe Punter, queuing for his daily scratchcard fix, the Lottery might as well be run by the Medellín cocaine cartel under the iron-handed regulation of Sooty and Sweep. He only wants to win — just once would be nice. Please. The inquiry into Mr Davis's behaviour is about standards in public life, so it is perhaps no surprise that no one has any intention of resigning, even if in more strait-laced times "serious errors of judgment" (the PAC's words) might be regarded as justifying a dignified departure. But consider if such behaviour were to be adopted by other regulators.

Jan Byatt wine and dined by Yorkshire Water? The ascetic Professor Littlechild flown all over the world by PowerGen? They would never have survived the scandal. Lucky Mr Davis. Perhaps GTEch should run another lottery, identifying acts so heinous that he would ac-

tually have to go. Line up six and you win. You'd have a better chance of winning on the scratchcards, though.

### A tale of two trusts

THIS is the tale of the terrible twins, Kepit and Mepit. About two years ago, although it seems more like two decades now, European privatisation looked like a wonderful new gravy train for all those who had profited from such issues in Britain.

So Kleinwort and Mercury, two of the City's most reputable names, gave birth to the twins. They were rival European investment trusts, hence the nicknames, aimed at those privatisations as they rolled off the slipways across Europe. Albanian breweries, Norwegian telecoms, you didn't even need to know what you were buying, but as the privatisation virus swept across Europe you were ensured a part of the action.

It all went horribly wrong. For a start the twins were too greedy, raising between them more than £1 billion of investors' money. This meant little demand from

other investors once trading in the trusts started, even if Kleinwort did turn away £250 million worth of excess applications. American interest rates and stock markets turned not long after the launch. Too many of the privatisations were absolute dogs, priced at what they were worth and so not offering investors the immediate returns we had all come to expect from British sell-offs.

Hurt corporate pride spurred Mercury and Kleinwort into action. Mercury launched a limited buyback for Mepit. Kleinwort has since put together a more complicated and more effective scheme for Kepit, involving swapping up to 60 per cent of the equity into loan stock, which Kleinwort will then buy off investors.

But another big institution has its own plans. Henderson Administration wants to buy up Kepit, sell off the assets, and return 99.25 per cent of the proceeds to shareholders. The remaining 0.75 per cent, or £3.5 million, is its fee. In addition, Kepit shareholders can swap some of their shares into one of Henderson's more successful European trusts. The scheme offers a more direct route out for the disenchanted, even if it begs certain questions about how much the assets can be sold for. But investors might want to wait to see what else that hurt pride may tempt out of Kleinwort.

## Cowie pays £26.5m for bus company

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

COWIE has catapulted itself into second place among UK bus operators with the purchase of North East Bus for £26.5 million.

The second spot was previously held by Stagecoach.

The acquisition gives Cowie more than 18 per cent of the UK bus market, behind first-placed FirstBus, with 20 per cent of the market, but ahead of Stagecoach, which controls about 17 per cent.

Cowie, which has expanded into buses from the vehicle contract hire business, announced its latest purchase yesterday as it reported record pre-tax profits for the six months ending June 30, up 19 per cent to £32.2 million. Turnover was almost unchanged at £529 million.

An interim dividend of 3.4p, up 11.5 per cent on the same time last year, will be paid on September 5.

Cowie's interim profits were boosted by its bus companies in London, where it is the largest operator, which showed an increase in passenger revenue.

Gordon Hodgson, chief executive, said that the acquisition of British Bus, announced in June and due for completion today, and of North East Bus, would be "immediately earnings enhancing, whilst bringing to the group a better balance of bus and motor-related businesses".

Cowie raised the money to pay for British Bus through a rights issue. North East Bus, which has been bought from West Midlands Travel, part of National Express Group, will be paid for in cash. Cowie will pay £24.5 million plus a £2 million dividend payable on completion.

North East Bus has annualised turnover of about £29 million and runs services in County Durham and on Teesside. In the nine months ending December 31 last year, it made an operating profit of £3 million. It has 422 buses and nearly 1,200 employees.

National Express said yesterday that the proceeds of the sale would be re-invested in the group. Cowie shares ticked down 1p, to 373p, while National Express shares also closed down 1p, at 442p.

### Salvesen rejects Hays offer

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN yesterday rejected a takeover bid worth more than £1 billion from Hays, the business services group, but said it was willing to consider "a significantly improved financial proposal" (Sarah Cunningham writes).

In a letter to Hays, which it also published through the Stock Exchange, the board of Salvesen, the Edinburgh storage, distribution and specialist hire group, described the tabled offer, understood to be at 370p, as "inadequate". Chris Masters, chief executive, said the company would not negotiate any deal with Hays. Hays would only say it was "considering its position."

Hays closed unchanged at 429p. Salvesen lost 4p to 356p.

### Dairy Crest shares to float at 155p

SOME 28,000 dairy farmers will receive shares worth an average of £6,000 each when Dairy Crest, the milk and cheese company, is floated this month (Paul Durman writes).

Dairy Crest shares were yesterday priced at 155p, valuing the company at £171.4 million. Some analysts had looked for a share price nearer 180p.

The company, previously part of the now-defunct Milk Marketing Board, is owned by the Residuary Milk Marketing Board on behalf of farmers.

Julian Lakin, a Merrill Lynch analyst, said the pricing had been affected by weak demand for new issues.

Hoare Govett, the broker, yesterday placed 30 per cent of the shares with institutions.

Tempus, page 26

## Bid for Kleinwort trust

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

TR EUROPEAN Growth Trust (Treg) has announced a near £500 million bid for Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) seven days before shareholders vote on Kepit's own proposals for a share buyback at an extraordinary meeting (See Pennington, this page).

Treg is offering 93.86p per Kepit share in cash and 28.10p per warrant, although the final offer depends on market price and expenses on the day the bid is completed. Kepit shares rose 2p to 91p yesterday on the news. However, since the launch of the trust in 1994 the shares have traded consistently at a discount to the net asset value (NAV) per share.

At July 29, Kepit's NAV was 102.9p. Treg is offering the equivalent of an NAV of 94.6p and says the lower figure takes into account the cost of winding up the company, legal fees, and termination fees for the original fund managers.

Kepit, meanwhile, is recommending its shareholders take no action. Treg says that its existing shareholders will benefit from an uplift in net asset value. Sir Geoffrey Little, chairman of Treg, said the offer represented a better option than Kepit's own buyback scheme. He added that it represented "a 5 per cent increase on the July 30 share price and a 10 per cent rise on the warrant price".

# B.A.T INDUSTRIES

## Dividend up 8%

First half unaudited results to 30 June 1996

PRE-TAX PROFIT	£1,331m	+12%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	26.0p	+12%
DIVIDEND PER SHARE	10.0p	+8%

- Pre-tax profit rose by 12 per cent to £1,331 million, an underlying 8 per cent, excluding the effect of disposals.
- Financial services profit increased by 3 per cent to £554 million, with a reduced profit of £225 million from the life and investment business, and the general business 8 per cent higher at £329 million.
- Tobacco trading profit was up by 7 per cent, to £798 million, against last year's outstanding first half, even though there was a significant increase in brand development expenditure in a number of markets.
- "B.A.T Industries is continuing to make good progress. The Board is declaring an interim dividend of 10.0p, an 8 per cent increase, as part of our long-term commitment to deliver superior total returns for shareholders."

Lord Cairns, Chairman

The full interim report is being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, B.A.T Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.







# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## We're talking phone numbers

CARDCALL, the AIM-bound company that produces phonecards, has turned a telling-off from BT to its favour. To live up to its phonecards, CardCall has been decorating them with different designs, ranging from Batman to National Lottery balls. CardCall recently plumped for a picture of a good old British phonebox. Then, BT pulled the plug, terrified that people would think they were using a BT product.

After a court settlement, CardCall agreed to cease production, which left them with unsellable stock of 1,000 cards. Unlike run-of-the-mill limited edition phonecards, the "Redbox" series are the only ones to have been pulled after a legal dispute, and collectors are going crazy for them. Through the pages of phonecard magazines, CardCall's remaining cards, worth £2, are changing hands for £100 each. At a production cost of 10p, this gives the otherwise useless cards a value of £100,000.

## Hard cheese

DAIRY CREST discarded 20 pounds of prize-winning cheddar cheese yesterday. A huge sculpture, carved in the shape of Dairy Crest's 15p share price from a champion cheddar called Davidstow, which won first prize in the Nantwich International Cheese Show yesterday, was wheeled out for the flotation. According to Dairy Crest, "it's very fine cheese, and wasn't in the best condition at the end of the day."

Albionia: Guardian Royal Exchange's German arm, has a convincing name for its new personal motor insurance company, launched last week — Die Alternative.



## Floating asset

A NEW arrival at Cliveden won't make a huge contribution to the hotel's profits. The grand hotel has just splashed out £15,000 on the Belmont — a beautiful slipper launch built in 1924. The 33ft vessel is for the exclusive use of guests who stay at the newly restored Spring Cottage, a National Trust house on the banks of the River Thames, that was built for the Duchess of Sutherland, and used by Cliveden owners. The hotel boasts two boats — the Liddersdale, an electric canoe, and Suzie Ann, a £75,000 vessel named after the chairman's wife, who also happens to be the current managing director's ex-wife.

## Safer bet

WE know the real reason why London Clubs is relocating the Ritz casino around the corner to St James's Street, rather than extend its lease for its current home in the hotel's basement. According to a former general manager of the Ritz Hotel, the Queen's garden, which backs onto the casino, used to leak like a sieve. He explains: "It was more Manila than Piccadilly. But bearing in mind that we only paid ten guineas a year, we didn't dare complain."

MORAG PRESTON

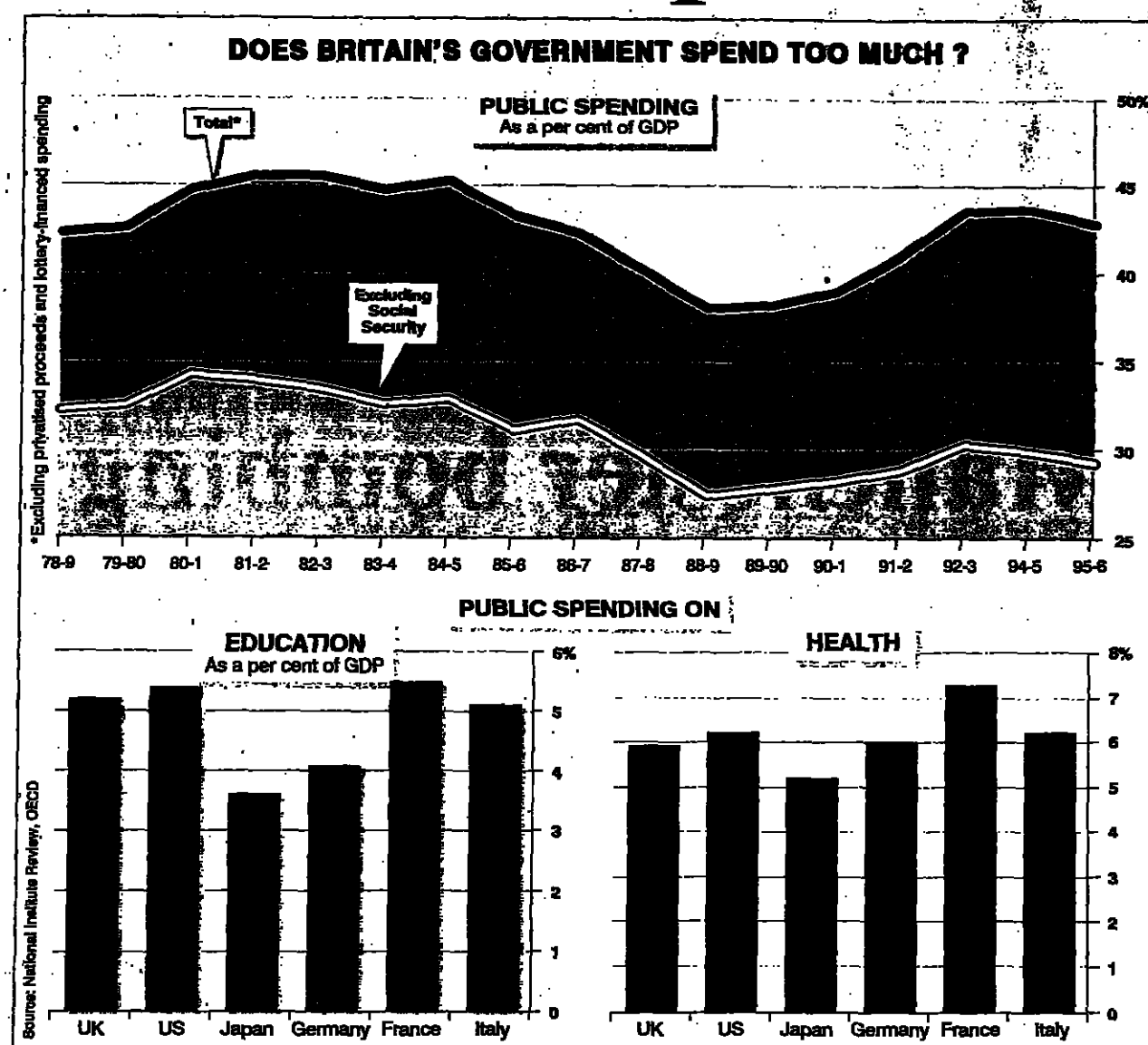
# When the public sector is better than the private

Governments have better buying power and can borrow more cheaply

Are public spending and taxes really too high in Britain? It is all too rare these days for a discussion by academically respectable economists to get straight to the point by asking such a direct and important question. For this novelty alone, the article entitled "Are Government Spending and Taxes Too High (or Too Low)?" which was published yesterday in the *National Institute Economic Review*, would deserve attention. And going beyond the title, this concise analysis of Britain's public finances after 17 years of Tory rule should, despite its impenetrable prose and sometimes perverse conclusions, be made compulsory reading for politicians and commentators of all parties.

The value of this article lies not in its main policy conclusion. This is essentially that the only way to reduce, or even control, taxes and public spending is to put the unemployed back to work. This proposition, which has long been obvious to anyone schooled in the Keynesian tradition, is now widely accepted by policymakers the world over. The only people who still seem to believe that significant reductions can be made in either taxes or public spending, without macroeconomic measures to stimulate economic growth are the impractical theorists who inhabit the last redoubts of monetarism, places such as the German Bundesbank, the European Commission and the office of Gordon Brown. The really significant contribution of John Fleming and Peter Oppenheimer, the two distinguished Oxford economists, has not been to proffer their advice but simply to bring together in one thorough study the key statistics and arguments which have been almost completely missed in the incredibly shallow political debate on these all-important issues.

While it is now well-known that public spending and taxes as a share of GDP remained roughly unchanged in the 17 years of Tory rule, the shift in the way the Government spends our money is less widely recognised. The fact is that the Tories have cut spending, and cut it significantly, on many of the key functions of Government. The money spent on providing public goods and services such as education, health, defence, justice, arts and transport has fallen substantially as a proportion of GDP. The trouble is that the savings generated by these cuts have been swallowed up completely by the extra spending on social security transfers — spending which Fleming and Oppenheimer rightly attribute almost entirely to high unemployment, even if much of it is disguised as pensions for early retirees or disability benefits for people pushed off the unem-



ployment rolls. The article rightly rejects most of the Government's claims that spending on health, education and other popular public services has increased in "real terms" under the Tories. Such claims are generally based on misleading statistics which compare the growth in spending with the increase in retail prices. But health, education, policing and most other public services are very labour-intensive, so spending must generally rise in line with wages, rather than prices, for the standard of service just to stand still.

The article also rejects claims that huge efficiency improvements have been "ploughed back" into the provision of better services, since most of these "efficiencies" have resulted simply from holding down pay in the public sector relative to the private sector — a course which is unsustainable in the long term and will eventually be reversed. The article also supports a point often made in this column, particularly in discussing health. Even if private provision of certain public services, such as health and education, turns out to be more efficient in certain respects — for example in making more intensive use of medical equipment and classrooms or in reducing waste in physical resources or employee rostering — it does not follow that privatisation or competition would save money for taxpayers or release resources for other sectors of the economy. Indeed, commercialising the public services will generally drive up costs and result in a

higher proportion of the economy's resources being devoted to health, education, policing and so forth.

The main reason for this is that the Government supplies less in the way of health care and education than many people would buy if left to their own devices. This is particularly true as a country gets richer, the returns to education increase and people live longer and have more income to spare on preserving their health. By rationing the amount of services publicly available — and forcing those who want to buy from the private sector to pay twice over, through taxes on top of insurance or fees — the State actually ensures that education, health and other public services absorb less of the economy's resources than

services are commercialised such people tend to demand salaries closer to the market rate. The fourth problem is that commercial systems are hard to organise in many public services, simply because the output is difficult to measure. For example, the attempt to measure health service efficiency by hospital waiting lists and "finished consultant episodes" is convincingly debunked by Fleming and Oppenheimer. These measures of output bear little relation to the health of patients, or even their satisfaction — and create big incentives for political and managerial manipulation and abuse.

Finally, the public sector can raise finance for investment more cheaply than private sector borrowers, especially ones competing in an untried and artificial market traditionally monopolised by public sector institutions.

In many public services, these factors between them are likely to outweigh by far the possible efficiencies that might be achieved by introducing better systems of management accounting, tighter financial controls and more competition. This can be seen most clearly by comparing health spending in America and Britain. America spends 13 per cent of GDP on health, as against 6 per cent in Britain. Within that 13 per cent total, however, the American Government spends more than 5 per cent of GDP to buy modest standards of care for the retired and the indigent. This public spending is the same as Britain's total spending on the NHS for the whole

population. The NHS is so much more efficient than America's commercial system that Britain effectively gets medicine for everyone under 65 as a free extra.

In education, by contrast, Britain spends about the same as most other countries. If Britain's educational attainments are unimpressive, this seems to have little to do either with "under-resourcing" or with the lack of commercial management.

All these arguments about efficiency and resource allocation, however, beg an important question. What if people want to spend or even "waste" more money on health, education and other public services than the political system seems to allow?

As a society gets richer, should tax-financed public services be replaced by private commercial ones to give citizens the right to buy more health, education and so on, even if this is in some sense economically wasteful? And what right does the Government have to operate a monopoly designed to keep down the pay of doctors, professors and so on, simply in order to give taxpayers a better deal?

These are the kind of questions the radical Right ought to be asking if they want to privatise core services in the public sector and dramatically reduce the role of the State. As long as the free-marketers hide behind bogus claims about increasing efficiency and saving money, they will convince no one. The public services are not inherently inefficient — and markets do not always save money. Anyone who finds this incredible should read the *National Institute* review.

## What right do governments have to a monopoly to give taxpayers a better deal?

they would in a competitive market system.

The Government also acts as a monopoly buyer of most public services, and thereby artificially keeps down their costs — most importantly it keeps down the wages of doctors, teachers, professors and policemen below what would probably be their market clearing level in a competitive system. In addition, though this is less certain — there seem to be intangible benefits from working in the public sector which motivate some very able people to work for less than the wages they could command in the open market. Once the public ser-

vice factors between them are likely to outweigh by far the possible efficiencies that might be achieved by introducing better systems of management accounting, tighter financial controls and more competition.

This can be seen most clearly by comparing health spending in America and Britain. America spends 13 per cent of GDP on health, as against 6 per cent in Britain. Within that 13 per cent total, however, the American Government spends more than 5 per cent of GDP to buy modest standards of care for the retired and the indigent. This public spending is the same as Britain's total spending on the NHS for the whole

## Princely dream begins to reap timely reward

Jon Ashworth finds renewed optimism over the contentious Poundbury project

The royal divorce settlement has come and gone, but there is no easy let-up for the Duchy of Cornwall, the traditional provider of income to the Prince of Wales. Pressure on the Duchy to perform is greater than ever, and nowhere are the stakes higher than in Poundbury, the controversial housing development on the outskirts of Dorchester, West Dorset.

The butt of various jokes over the years, Poundbury is at last beginning to prove its critics wrong. Some 69 houses have been built since work began three years ago, and a further 88 are under construction. Half the homes were purchased by the Guinness Trust for letting to local people. The development's "town" image belies what is intended to become a sizeable extension to Dorchester, providing 2,500 homes at prices from £58,000 to £140,000.

Poundbury's origins date to 1987 when West Dorset District Council designated 400 acres of Duchy of Cornwall land for development. Leon Krier, an architect and urban planner, was asked to design an urban extension to Dorchester in sympathy with the style and layout of traditional West Dorset.

A boost to Poundbury's struggle for respectability came this summer when SMTech, an American owned high-tech electronics firm, became the first major business to choose to base there. The hope is that a mix of industries will follow, limiting exposure to any one sector — Poundbury has had a rough enough ride without the stigma of a corporate collapse.

When the Prince of Wales formally opened SMTech's offices, he praised West Dorset District Council for its support and said new ground had been broken in designs and standards. The task now lay in creating a sense of community by bringing homes and workplaces together, he said.

Poundbury was in a much more interesting and potentially exciting position when it came to attracting new residents and businesses.

There are benefits as a whole for West Dorset, which has suffered from defence cutbacks at Portland and Weymouth. The hope is that Poundbury will act as a lure to investors, boosting local employment. SMTech

must be reeling in publicity. Owned by Guinness Systems Corporation of Philadelphia, the company makes machines that print solder paste on to printed circuit boards. The units, which cost up to £100,000 each, are air-freighted to America and Japan. Clients include Samsung, Siemens, and Motorola, which use the technology in everything from mobile phones to laptop computers. SMTech has annual sales above £5 million.

The number of foreign visitors is growing, many from South Korea and Japan. Dignitaries are treated to splendid views of rolling fields — if marred by the sound of lorries and cement-mixers. The Prince of Wales "connection" can do no harm. There are plans to turn a central courtyard into a ceremonial Japanese garden.

David Wheatley, managing director of SMTech, was encouraged by the Duchy to move from smaller premises in Dorchester. He said: "They understood our requirement for a high-quality environment... that would impress visitors."

Improving fortunes at Poundbury are all too welcome to the Duchy. Income has swelled dramatically in recent years, fuelled by tight control of costs and a tougher stance on tenant farmers. Duchy income for 1995 amounted to £102 million. After operating costs, the surplus payable to the Prince of Wales (before tax) was £4.9 million.

The Duchy's portfolio is split between agricultural land, commercial property and stocks and shares. Holdings include more than 220 tenanted farms, about 70,000 acres of Dartmoor, and a valuable slice of London real estate, notably the Oval cricket ground in Kennington. Poundbury is a small, but visible, part of an eclectic portfolio.

Critics have been quick to condemn Poundbury — it can look bleak on a bad day, but some basic facilities such as pubs and corner shops will help. The arrival of SMTech has been a huge morale-booster and talks with other prospective business tenants are ongoing. The Prince of Wales might be back cutting the ribbon sooner than he anticipated.



The Prince of Wales, left, touring Poundbury in 1994

## Time for independent review of Ofgas arrangements

From Mr H. Nicholas Sturcke  
Sir, There appears to be need for an urgent review of the workings of Ofgas. The further delay in the announcement of its final price control proposals, coupled with the appointment of yet another consultant, SBC Warburg, has, as perhaps implied in your *Tempos* column (July 23), raised questions on the efficiency with which Ofgas operates, particularly in the light of the continuing need to limit public expenditure. Ofgas has been operating as

a gas industry specialist for at least ten years. However, it still appears to have so little of its own expertise that not only does it continue to require the extensive and no doubt not inexpensive use of consultants, it also seems unable to appraise the advice provided to it to develop defensible proposals in its mainstream regulatory activity. It is ironic that the intention of Ofgas is to improve the efficiency of British Gas while operating so haphazardly itself.

There seems, therefore, to be

an urgent need for an independent review of the workings and funding of Ofgas: even gas consumers might prefer a reallocation of funds to more deserving effectively run services. Perhaps the first step should be to link movements in the Ofgas budget with the movement of future affordable British Gas dividends.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS STURCKE,  
Romford House,  
Kings Toll Road,  
Pembury,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

## India's cinema

From Mr Robert Hardcastle  
Sir, I cannot speak for Canada, but when Eric Reguly says that cinema advertising is virtually "non-existent" in India, he is badly misinformed (Carlton pays £58m for *Cinema Media*, July 23).

By the 1950s, during which time I worked with a British advertising agency in that country, cinema was already well established as the prime medium — much more effective than press advertising or posters when reaching out to the largely illiterate mass market. It remains a powerful force to this day.

Among the many talented visualisers and artists employed by my company was a young man, Manek Roy. He became better known as Satyajit Ray, the celebrated film director, who was always quick to acknowledge his debt to his early training in making cinema advertising films.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT HARDCASTLE,  
Lawn Cottage, Camden Park,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

## Chance of a quick payout to be equalled only by 50 years of mutual bounty

From Mr Michael Hardern  
Sir, Mutuality might seem better than conversion to Matthew Roberts (*Letters*, July 18) but for 75 per cent of members it will take at least 50 years of mutual bounty to equal the likely cash or shares windfall.

Rob Thomas, building society analyst at UBS, calculates that plc dividends will cost borrowers and savers 0.5 per cent

between them. Three quarters of savers have less than the average £5,000 investment. Their expected windfall would be about £1,250 from most societies — yes, even, the tiddlers.

Economics, common sense and fairness dictate that most members would be crazy not to vote for a windfall. Meanwhile, Nationwide and Britan-

nia are giving one third of their profits — the same as they would distribute in dividends as a plc — mostly to their biggest savers and borrowers without even consulting their memberships.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL HARDERN  
(Founder co-ordinator,  
Founders for Conversion,  
3 Rathbone Street, W1.)

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## Warning by gold miners on land rights

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE  
IN KALGOORLIE

AUSTRALIA'S gold-mining community said yesterday that landmark native title legislation protecting aboriginal land rights could deter companies from investing in future mining exploration in Australia.

The Native Title Act was introduced in 1992 as part of Australia's Mabo legislation to enshrine the rights of indigenous people over historic land.

Addressing the annual Diggers and Dealers gold conference in Kalgoorlie, Ron Manners, chairman of Croesus Mining, said: "Without some prompt action from Parliament, all Australians will be poorer as a result of Australia's mineral exploration dollars going elsewhere."

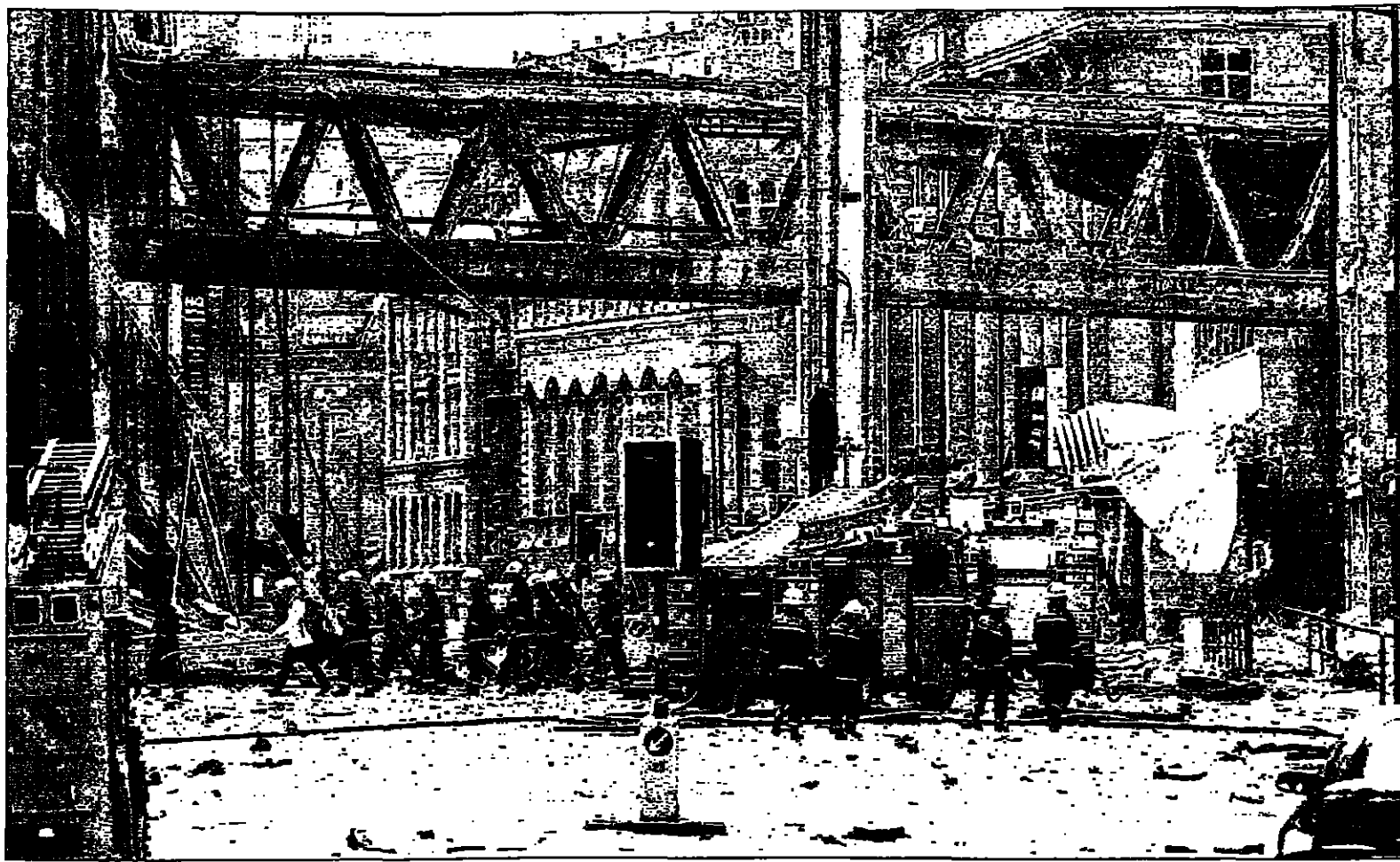
He added: "This ill-considered legislation is having the same effect as similar Canadian legislation, resulting in Canadian companies exploring everywhere in the world except Canada."

The outburst came amid growing fears among the mining community that local aboriginal communities will use the Native Title Act to block exploration and development.

Only last month, RTZ, the British mining giant, was forced to put on hold its proposed Century Zinc mine in Queensland after its attempts to bypass the Native Title Act met with fierce opposition from aboriginal groups and prompted a political row over the question of land rights.

Robert Champion de Crespigny, chairman of Normandy Mining, told the Kalgoorlie conference yesterday: "The legislation at the moment is totally unsatisfactory, not just to the mining community but to aboriginals as well."

Robert French, president of the Native Title Tribunal, told the mining community yesterday that they had to be pragmatic about the legislation.



The bomb attack by the IRA in Manchester in June contributed to a decline in first-half pre-tax profits at Guardian Royal Exchange

## IRA's Manchester bombing costs Guardian Royal £5m

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE IRA bombing of the Arndale centre in Manchester cost Guardian Royal Exchange £5 million and contributed to a 29 per cent fall in its first-half pre-tax profits.

The group made profits of £231 million in the first half of this year, compared with £327 million over the same period last year. John Robins, group chief executive, said that the results were satisfactory.

He added: "Despite tough

trading conditions in all our markets and the effects of severe weather in North America and the UK the group achieved a satisfactory trading profit of £137 million for the period. The interim dividend was increased 9.7 per cent, from 3.1p per share to 3.4p per share.

Guardian Royal Exchange has been mooted as a possible takeover target, especially after the merger of Royal and

Sun Alliance, two of its main rivals.

Mr Robins denied that the group was in talks with any particular company about a merger, but said: "We believe we have to compete more effectively." The group's trading profit for the first half was down 23 per cent to £137 million from £179 million last year.

The UK general insurance division made an underwrit-

ing loss of £14 million in the first six months of the year, compared with profits of £30 million in the first half of 1995.

As well as the impact of the Manchester bomb, the underwriting results were adversely affected by high subsidence claims, which increased losses by £7 million.

The UK life insurance division fared better, increasing contributions to profits from £9 million to £11 million. The

group announced that it had cut six-month operating costs from £43.6 million to £33.6 million — a drop of 23 per cent.

Mr Robins said that the life insurance company was on target to cut its costs by 50 per cent. He added: "In our financial services operations we maintained the pressure on operating expenses."

Mr Robins said the restructuring of its life insurance subsidiary would continue and that it was intended to concentrate on selling critical illness and long-term care and health insurance products.

He highlighted the appointment of Alan Oddie, formerly new business development director of M&G, the fund manager, to head the financial services division.

He also said that the group wanted to continue the expansion of its direct operations.

The company said it was looking to expand in America through the purchase of another general insurer. Mr Robins said that it intended to spend in the region of £333 million on a purchase.

## Sony doubles first-quarter profits

By JON ASHWORTH

SONY, the Japanese electronics group, more than doubled profits in the first quarter, despite incurring a loss on the foreign exchange market.

Net profits increased to ¥17.10 billion (\$159 million) in the three months to June 30, compared with ¥7.47 billion (\$69.8 million) in the same period last year. Movement in forward contracts in current-

cies resulted in a foreign exchange loss of ¥568 million (\$5.30 million). The gains were fuelled by strong worldwide sales of televisions, video and audio equipment and other electronics goods, as well as entertainment products for Sony's music and pictures divisions.

Weakness in the yen accounted for some of the

growth in Sony's overseas sales. A drop in the yen's value against other currencies makes Japanese products more competitive abroad, as this brings down their prices in terms of foreign currency.

Group sales increased to ¥117 trillion (\$10.9 billion) during the quarter, a rise of 31 per cent on the same period last year. Sales were particu-

larly strong in America and Europe.

Sony remained cautious on the outlook for the full year, sticking to its forecast of net profits of ¥95 billion (\$887 million) on sales of ¥5 trillion (\$46.7 billion). This would leave profits up 75 per cent on the previous year, while sales would be nine per cent higher.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Australian shares soar after rate cut

AUSTRALIA'S Reserve Bank yesterday cut interest rates from 7.5 per cent to 7 per cent in a surprise move which met an enthusiastic response from the business community. David Trude, senior operating officer at First Pacific, stockbrokers, said: "It is a great psychological boost — it's good for the building companies, it's good for the banks, it's good for the financial services industry, it will definitely help. The economy needed this."

It was the first adjustment since rates were raised by 1 per cent in December 1994. Shares on the Australian stock market soared, closing 49.5 points ahead at 2,180.3, their biggest one-day rise for two years. The Reserve Bank said the cut had been made because of the improved outlook for inflation and for faster economic growth. Bernie Fraser, Governor, said: "The reduction in rates will help buoy the economy and make more progress over the year ahead in reducing unemployment."

## Hinchliffe hearing

THE Department of Trade and Industry has applied to have Stephen Hinchliffe, the entrepreneur and founder of Facia, the collapsed high street retail group, to be disqualified under Section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986. Today's proceedings at the district court in Newcastle upon Tyne also involve Christopher Harrison, a fellow Facia director, and centre on the collapse two years ago of Boxgrey, a company formerly known as En-Tout-Cas.

## J&J Dyson advances

SHARES in J&J Dyson, the Sheffield-based refractories supplier and building-materials company, jumped 12p to 215p on a better-than-expected pre-tax profit of £2.88 million for the year ending March 31, up 20 per cent from £2.39 million previously. Turnover was £55.6 million (£50.1 million). A final dividend of 3p will be paid on October 1, making a full-year dividend of 4.5p, up from 4p previously. The company said trading had picked up in the final quarter.

## New jobs for Scotland

A THIRD Taiwanese company is to open a plant in Scotland's old steel belt, creating 200 jobs. The announcement yesterday of the £12 million components plant in Mossend, Lanarkshire, for the Allied Precision Company (UK) comes only weeks after Lite-On Technology, another Taiwan firm, announced plans for a computer monitor plant with more than 1,000 jobs. In November, Chungwha Picture Tubes of Taiwan said it would build a £260 million plant at Mossend.

## Midshires ahead by 14%

BIRMINGHAM MIDSHIRES, the tenth-largest building society, announced a 14 per cent rise in interim operating profit to £34.3 million and an 18 per cent reduction in provisions for bad debts to £1.8 million. Including an exceptional loss of £1.6 million last year, pre-tax profit rose 20 per cent in the six months to £34.3 million from £28.6 million in the same period of 1995. The society expects house prices to rise by two to four per cent by the end of the year.

## Precoat earnings up

PRECOAT INTERNATIONAL, the UK's largest manufacturer of pre-coated steel, lifted pre-tax profits 24 per cent to £3.05 million and earnings 21 per cent to 14.7p per share during the year to April 30. The group, which generates 20 per cent of sales from Canada, said anticipated sluggish home demand could affect trading. A final dividend of 3.3p, due on October 1, makes a total of 5.5p (4.50p). The shares, placed at 125p in April 1995, eased 2p to 192p.

### ACCOUNTANCY

## Derivatives caught in hedge

Gerry Acher on an issue that may bring ASB thinking to a crunch

SOME accounting issues have been around for a very long time and are still not wholly resolved — just think of goodwill. Derivatives, however, are a child of the past two decades. Two weeks ago, they came of age when the ASB issued its long-awaited discussion paper on derivatives. Though a fortnight is too short a time to digest all its complexities, we can begin to mull over the bigger issues.

First, more disclosure is proposed. That is uncontroversial, and I support it. But the other half of the story is measurement. This tells you what figure to put in the balance sheet and what profits to report. The core of the measurement proposals is that all financial instruments, including most monetary assets and liabilities, as well as, stated at current value, often known as marking-to-market. The ASB's tentative conclusions would have a dramatic impact on the way we look at accounts and would extend far beyond the question of how to account for derivatives. Preparers and commentators have not yet grasped the size or complexity of the issues. I will highlight just one that could bring the ASB's thinking to a crunch.

The issue is hedging: if a hedge does its job, there should

be no profit or loss as a result of changes in the factor hedged. But accountants and standard-setters around the world have struggled for an acceptable definition of a hedge, one meeting economic reality and accounting theory.

Derivatives have vastly multiplied the opportunity to hedge. Held as hedges, many are already marked-to-market and, to that extent, appear on companies' balance sheets, but the ASB's concern is driven by those that are not. Its main concern lies in cases in which a realised gain or loss is carried forward against a future transaction. It has difficulty fitting that treatment into its definitions of assets and liabilities and feels uneasy that such items should go other than through the profit and loss account. This then extends to the view that unrealised gains and losses on hedges should receive the same treatment.

Let us study that proposition. Much of the earlier comment cited the case of Japan Airlines (JAL) and its ¥173 billion (£1.1 billion) "losses" on hedges. It seems that, in the mid-1980s, JAL had taken out forward currency contracts to buy dollars (for yen) to hedge against changes in the yen equivalent amount of the purchase prices of aircraft. Whether those purchases were committed ones or



Gerry Acher says Britain can lead the debate on hedging

merely planned, does not really matter as far as illustrating the issues is concerned. In effect, the purchase price risk was fixed at the yen equivalent in the mid-1980s, but, as luck would have it, the yen strengthened and the jets would have cost them ¥173 billion less if they had not bothered with the hedge. That

is certainly an opportunity loss, but is it one that should be recognised there and then in the profit and loss account, as the ASB would propose?

Suppose that JAL had contracted to buy the aircraft in yen, then, come the day that the aircraft entered service, the yen cost would be set against operating revenues in the form

of depreciation. If it turns out that the yen price of the aircraft was more than they would have paid had they contracted in dollars, should the difference be immediately expensed? If the list price of a machine falls after you contract to buy it, do you necessarily write off the difference at once? This is the equivalent of the ASB proposal, because all that the hedge achieves is to convert a dollar commitment into a yen one; economically, the result is the same.

What really seems to give the ASB difficulty is the idea of spreading the "loss" forward over the life of the aircraft. Rather than facing up to the definitional problems, it opts to cut the Gordian knot by not dealing with them at all — although, curiously, they then reappear in weaker form in another part of the proposals. To mark-to-market would recognise the loss on the derivative as one transaction, and the purchase of the jet as something completely separate.

The ASB is not alone in facing this thorny problem: the IASC and the FASB are also trying to tackle the issue. If we can all co-operate, we might even pull off the trick of having consistent approaches around the world. What is more, the opportunity is there for the UK to lead the debate. But we must get it right.

The author is head of audit and accounting, KPMG

## Quest for Holy Grail of tax simplification

THE Holy Grail has been sighted again. Through misty swirling clouds, a glimpse has been reported by the mighty firm of KPMG. The possibility of tax simplification is assessed in a survey of finance directors' views that the firm has published this week.

Much of it is predictable. The costs are rocketing upwards. The 266 finance directors of listed companies who responded to the survey indicated tax compliance costs ranging from £3,500 a year to £125 million. The mean value was £126,400 and from this KPMG extrapolate a total annual expenditure by the UK's listed companies of about £265 million. Of that, 55 per cent is staff costs, says the survey, and 36 per cent is the cost of external advisers.

So there you have the first problem. A huge number of people make a good living out of the very tax complexity that everyone moans about. Furthermore, the survey shows that this enterprising tax culture is expanding at a pretty satisfactory rate for tax experts generally. "Over the period 1991-96," says the survey,

"tax compliance costs have increased by 33.6 per cent as compared to an RPI increase of 14.5 per cent." As at many junctures, in arguments about tax complexity put across by tax advisers, you want to stop them and ask whether they are boasting or complaining. At this point in the argument, people usually pick up a cudgel and take a swipe at the Inland Revenue. Unusually, the survey shows that this route is not as popular as thought. More people (35 per cent) thought the tax authorities to be helpful than unhelpful (18.8 per cent). For the finance directors surveyed, the greatest problem was the complexity of tax legislation. An overwhelming 95.1 per cent thought it was the greatest problem of all, with 4.5 per cent unable to make up their minds and those who disagreed with the idea being so few and far between as to be almost unmeasurable.

Tax complexity has always got the vote in recent years. It is an obvious choice. KPMG quotes the recent legislation on corporate debt, which, leaving out the transitional provisions, runs to 25 sections and seven schedules in the 1996 Finance Act, taking up 84 pages. As the firm says, that is "too lengthy to use without incurring excessive costs." But judging by the anonymous comments quoted in the survey, finance directors do not think much will come from the current efforts to rewrite tax legislation in a simpler form. "Tax

simplification is a noble objective," says one, "but will not be achieved by simply rewriting the tax Acts in supposedly plain language. A fundamental overhaul is required."

"Fewer taxes and fewer reliefs would simplify the system, but, with the lawmakers' obsession that everyone is into avoidance schemes on a wholesale basis, simplification is impossible." And this is where the survey really touches on the way that the Revenue — whose policies in recent years have been directed as much by slash-and-burn accountants as by people attempting to implement tax policies — has changed. When it came to categories of service like "timeliness of response", "efficiency", and, to a lesser extent, "accuracy", many more people thought the Revenue had improved over the past five years than thought it had not. But the reverse was true when it came to "helpfulness", "suspicion", and "aggression". In particular, 51.5 per cent thought the Inland Revenue's aggression had increased over the period.

Only 8.6 per cent thought that it had become less aggressive. Part of this is predictable — a knee-jerk response. It is always going to be hard to say that tax gatherers are nice, well-mannered folk. But the problem is going to worsen. The whole shift towards self-assessment and its swingeing penalties for seemingly innocuous behaviour is going to make the whole relationship more confrontational. Add to that the pressures that are going to be felt by much-reduced Revenue staff numbers and you have an inevitable worsening of the relationship. The answers to this worrying change are difficult to discern. The survey suggests that there should be fewer taxes — 71.4 per cent agreed with that idea. But the most popular route to that solution, favoured by 57 per cent, was to abolish National Insurance contributions and merge them with income tax. But no government of whatever hue is going to make it more obvious to voters quite what an immense amount of tax is scooped from their salaries.

Trying to reduce tax complexity will remain a Holy Grail. It is tempting. At times, it may seem almost attainable. But the system runs against it. Corporate affairs are more complex. Transactions are more complex. Tax advisers are multiplying like rabbits. The only certainties left to us are death, taxes and inexorably rising legal fees.



ROBERT BRUCE

## Have pencil, will investigate

ACCOUNTANTS are always complaining that it takes ages, or is impossible, to get at the documents needed for an investigation or an audit. However, when the roles are reversed, things are often no better. Take the latest report from the profession's Joint Disciplinary Scheme, into the aftermath of fraud at International Signal and Control Group (ISC), Michael Chance,

the Scheme's executive counsel, reports that, after lengthy efforts, the relevant working papers were found to be at KPMG's New York offices. "Once they had been found, a third visit to America was arranged," his report says. "My investigating accountants were not permitted to photocopy relevant material on any of the American firm's files, rendering extensive note-

taking necessary." No wonder that the investigation cost "approximately" £500,000.

### Not so constant

KPMG's study of finance directors' views on simplifying tax bears many useful ideas. It also inadvertently praises the Inland Revenue, where no praise, to judge by the rest of the survey, is due. An argu-

ment in the text about how people thought the Revenue's timeliness of response had got worse in the past five years is illustrated in a bar chart labelled "Timeliness of response". If only tax policies were that constant.

### Birthday boy

IT IS NOT often that accountants are honoured for their

fine works. However, one who has retained the affection and respect of the profession for more years than most people would care to measure is Will Baxter, Professor Emeritus at the London School of Economics. A book of essays in honour of the man whom it describes as a "gentle revolutionary" has been published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, at a suitably modest price of £8 a copy, to honour his 90th birthday.

ROBERT BRUCE

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Handwritten signature: J. P. 12/15/96



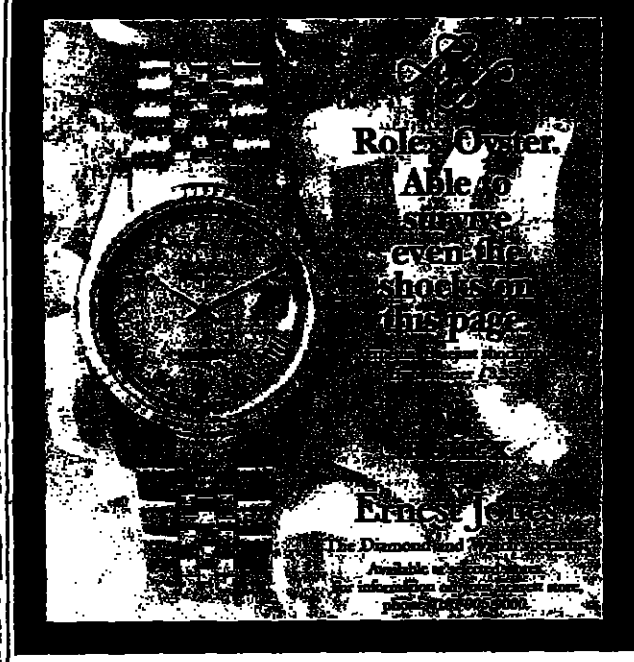
## Equities close near best of day

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes in yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

# Equities close near best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes in yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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## ■ FILM 1

Convincing fantasy for adults and kids alike, in the big screen adaptation of *James and the Giant Peach*



## ■ FILM 2

... but a new lease of life for the world's most famous dolphin looks pretty limp in *Flipper*

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## ■ FILM 3

The Barbican offers a fascinating trawl through the vaults of Hammer Films, home to *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*



## ■ FILM 4

The re-release of the Coen brothers' first feature, *Blood Simple*, puts newer independent to shame

CINEMA: Geoff Brown finds that sour-sweet Dahl is more to his taste than drippy eco-drama

# Unreal dolphin, surreal fruit

How do you like your family entertainment, bland or tasty? This week you have a choice. In *Flipper* an animatronic dolphin does everything but wink as it helps a teenager to realise that there is more to life than sulking behind dark glasses. In *James and the Giant Peach*, based on Roald Dahl's first book for children, a mistreated orphan escapes from his nasty and greedy aunts by venturing inside a giant peach and journeying to the New World with the insects embedded within. One film limps along with staid adventures seen many times before, the other serves up surreal fantasy dazzling enough to lure adults as well as children. No prizes for guessing which is which.

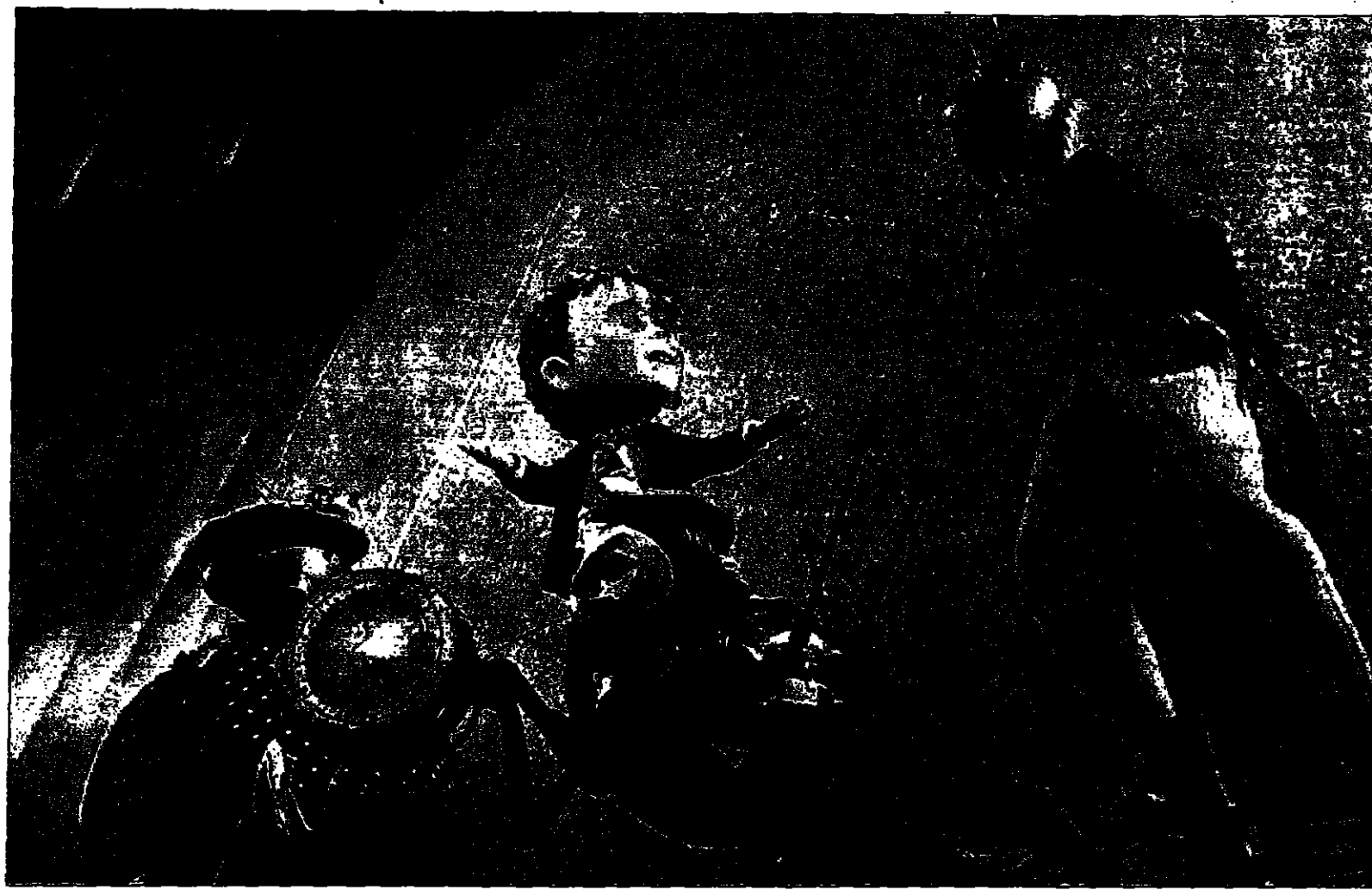
*James and the Giant Peach* was put into production by director Henry Selick and co-producers Tim Burton and Denise Di Novi, the team responsible for *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. There are live-action scenes at the front and the rear, while the large chunk in the middle uses stop-motion puppet animation with exceptional finesse. But where *Nightmare* insisted too loudly on the ghoulish night-mare dreamt up by Tim Burton, Selick transfers Dahl's imaginings from page to screen with an agreeable, nonchalant flourish.

The live-action introduction lures us into an unpredictable, highly stylised world ringed about with menace and vaguely set in the 1940s. After a rampaging rhino gobbles his parents, happy child James (a lively Paul Terry) is packed off to live with two rapacious aunts (scenery-chewing Miriam Margulies and Joanna Lumley). Salvation arrives with a magic bag of crocodile tongues that brings a dead peach tree to life. Once James crawls into the outside fruit, animation takes over: how else could you dress a grasshopper in a monocle, morning coat and cane, or depict a peach being carried across the Atlantic by a flock of seagulls?

Dahl's book has no strong dramatic line: it jumps from curious event to event like any story improvised night after night at a child's bedside. Selick's cohorts had problems manufacturing a workable script — an early treatment by Dennis Porter was rejected for straying too far from the source. But the peach's inhabitants provide a jolly vaudeville show, and invented episodes such as the battle with a shipful of skeleton pirates add welcome punch and variety.

Among the voices, David Thewlis's distinctively lugubrious tones make a perfect fit for the pessimistic Glow-worm, and Richard Dreyfuss's bumptious squawk suits the wisecracking Centipede, cigar permanently clamped between his teeth. Who, though, would recognise Susan Sarandon as the voice of the Spider, whose birthplace seems to be deepest Russia?

Along the way there are songs by Randy Newman,



*James and the Giant Peach*: Roald Dahl's story has now been turned into a "surreal fantasy dazzling enough to lure adults as well as children"

unmemorable melodically but used to bolster the story and to underline the gentle points being made about the need for love and accepting each other. Despite some softening of Dahl's macabre wit — the film, after all, is a Disney presentation — readers who have taken the book to their hearts should not be disappointed. Those who have not will be able to revel in the technical dexterity and the delight of voyaging where no film has gone before.

Now, who is this? He washes dishes by swishing them around in the shower with his foot. He prizes open a coconut with two thumbs from two fingers. To toast bread, he flings slices at hooks attached to the wall, then brings out the blowtorch.

He is not the title character in *Flipper*, the dolphin which some may recall from the Hollywood films and television series produced 30 years ago by Ivan Tors. Nor is he Elijah Wood, the sullen city teenager who unbends through exposure to nature's marvels in the islands off Key West. No, the answer is *Crocodile Dundee* star Paul Hogan, cast as the uncle who gives his 14-year-old charge the summer holiday of a lifetime, and the only participant to add salt and pepper to a family movie that may keep children quietly occupied but is painfully low in flavour.

In reviving a property from the 1960s, Alan Shapiro, the film's writer and director, has paid some attention to modern times. Out goes childhood innocence, in come teenage attitude, separated parents

**James and the Giant Peach**  
Odeon West End, U.  
79 mins  
Excellent version of Roald Dahl's book

**Flipper**  
Plaza, PG, 95 mins  
The Stories dolphin returns but does not make waves

**La Règle du Jeu**  
Riverside Studios, PG,  
110 mins  
Jean Renoir's masterpiece revived

**Blood Simple**  
Virgin Haymarket, 18,  
99 mins  
The Coen brothers' first film

**Hammer at the Barbican**  
Barbican Cinema  
Month-long trawl through the Hammer vaults

And lurid T-shirts. Ecological issues raise their heads too. Before, *Flipper* wiggled his fins at escaped convicts, ignorant fishermen and others unmoved by his charms. Now the enemy is toxic waste, dumped in the sea by a hissing chap who starts off a particularly lame plot by aiming his guns and rendering *Flipper* an orphan.

Hogan's quirky presence aside, none of the contemporary elements help this new *Flipper* to leap into life. Certainly not Elijah Wood. After

earning a reputation as one of Hollywood's most sensitive child actors, he has now hit the rocks of adolescence. The eyes are hidden behind sunglasses. He scarcely smiles. He seems at a loss: too old to put a dolphin without embarrassment, too young and tidy to act the teenage rebel.

*Flipper* himself makes his comeback with all the benefits of modern technology. If the script demands exploits beyond the skills of trained mammals, an animatronic stand-in is switched on to fight with a shark, beam with delight or otherwise act cute. Technically *Flipper* glides along nicely with accomplished undersea camerawork from Bill Butler, who photographed *Jaws*. But the poverty of its imagination is depressing.

With good new releases thin on the ground during the summer, this is the time that distributors bring out their revivals. In terms of quality, Jean Renoir's *La Règle du jeu*, 57 years old, outshines any film currently playing: indeed, this portrait of life and loves upstairs and downstairs at a French country house is one of cinema's masterpieces.

And the current crop of American independents begin to look puny placed next to *Blood Simple*, the Coen brothers' first feature, now 13 years old, a self-conscious child of the film noir thrillers of the 1940s mounted with cold-blooded verve.

But the most fascinating excursion into the past is the Barbican's month-long trawl through the vaults of Hammer Films, famous home to

*Dracula*, *Frankenstein*, zombies and strangles of Bombay. The horrors depicted may seem tame next to the gore overflowing from modern movies, but in the 1950s the prim British Establishment threw up its hands at the pickled organs in *Frankenstein's* laboratory, or fangs drawing blood from a damsel's neck in lurid Eastman Colour.

Audiences thought differently. They were tired of enduring piffing Rank comedies or watching Jack Hawkins fight the Second World War in films coloured battle-splashed grey. *The Curse of Frankenstein* and its many successors gave British cinema just the kick in the pants it needed. It took longer for critics to come round, but by the 1970s thoughtful types were finding hidden treasure and belatedly placing laurels on the head of director Terence Fisher.

Apart from the delight of seeing Fisher's *Dracula* and *The Curse of Frankenstein* again, the season usefully reminds us that Hammer was never just the house of horror. They filmed humble spin-offs from radio shows such as *Life With the Lyons* and *The Adventures of P.C. 49*. With the *Quatermass* movies they made some of the best British sci-fi of the 1950s. They made terse, location-based crime dramas such as *Hell is a City* (the city is Manchester, which duly complained). Raquel Welch stripped down to her fur bikini in *One Million Years BC*. And there were adorable follies such as *The Lost Continent* and *Slave*

remotely likely to win any awards for quality.

Ben: Awful, awful, awful. This was just really cheesy and standard American pap. Maybe children will like this, but then they should be seeing a class act like *James and the Giant Peach*.

Naomi: Not as bad as I expected, but I would have liked to compare it to the TV series. As far as slushy animal films go this was better than average.

## A motive in the making

RADIO: Peter Barnard finds a postponed play about murder in the family compelling listening

The media is extremely sensitive to the relationship between real and fictional events. By way of proof, an outstanding play turned up on Radio 4 this week, four months late.

The Monday Play slot consistently produces quality drama, and this month it has lengthened its title to take in *Five in July*, meaning a season of five contemporary works. This week's play was *Five Kinds of Silence*.

It should have gone out in March, but was withdrawn from the schedules because of the Dunblane massacre. There was no connection between the play and Dunblane, except that both involved murder, and the BBC was oversensitive to withdraw it. But I suppose the Corporation has enough critics without offering them further ammunition.

Shelagh Stevenson's play was superbly constructed. Often the use of narration, flashback, extracts from letters and the like leads to terrible confusion for the listener. No such traps here, thanks to the skill of the writing and Jeremy Mortimer's excellent direction.

The play marked a welcome radio appearance by Tom Courtenay as Billy, the father murdered by his two daughters. The dramatic tension was in the examination of motives, the slow unravelling through flashback of Billy's iron rule and his own tortured childhood.

By the end there was a strong sense that Billy's murder had released him as much as it released his family, for here was a portrait of a man who had become a prisoner of his own emotional history.

Radio 3 is, of course, mainly occupied with the BBC Proms at present. These used to be called the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts, but the BBC's finely-honed promotional instincts have brought an end to that.

This week the Corporation has also been running a related series of 20-minute programmes called *Lost in London*, about concert halls which have disappeared from the capital.

Andrew Green's informative series provides a salutary lesson on what can happen when we become complacent about musical venues. I was especially struck by Tuesday's instalment concerning Vauxhall Gardens, a popular venue in the 18th century.

Finally, brief mention of something yet to come: a Radio 4 series called *The Sunday Morning* starts tomorrow. It is a wickedly funny send-up of the lengths to which Sunday newspapers go to fill endless supplements. I particularly like "Measured Opinion, the page where we ask people of roughly the same height for their thoughts about a different issue each week".

**THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME**

**"A MASTERPIECE OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT"**  
CHARLES SPENCER - THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

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NEIL NORMAN - THE EVENING STANDARD

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AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

## 'I'd even go and see it with my mates'

Every week young film fans discuss the latest releases...

**JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH**  
Matt Jones, 22: This is superb family entertainment, produced with great flair and panache. It's quite wonderful to look at, and the star names who do the voices complement Dahl's characters marvelously. I would recommend just about anybody to go and see it.

Rachel Jones, 19: This is

visually stunning and more accessible than *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. I thought it was clever, witty and inventive and, except for one weak song early on, it's almost perfect family fare.

Ben Wright, 21: This was excellent, and I'd even go and see it with my mates. I was always a big fan of Roald Dahl and here at last is an adaptation that does his work justice.

Naomi Smith, 20: I loved this,



and I will definitely be going to see it again and again and again. In fact, I didn't particularly like the music, but that still wasn't enough to put me off.

**FLIPPER**  
Matt: The sentiment is laid on thicker than Barbara Cartland's foundation cream. Considering that it is so mind-blowingly formulaic and daft, you ultimately feel somewhat ashamed for getting so emotionally caught up in all this tosh.

Rachel: This is typical American goodies-versus-baddies stuff, but not the spectacular mess one would expect. It should go down well with kids, although it never looks

# Our small screen has made the big screen.

Our in-flight entertainment system didn't have to audition to star in *Mission Impossible*, which we'll be screening from September.

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## ■ SNAPSHOT

Day Four of our series on top tourist attractions takes a walk through the historic stones of Westminster Abbey



## ■ THEATRE 1

Leo McKern gives a fine performance as a tipsy snapper in Chichester's revival of *When We Are Married*

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## ■ THEATRE 2

Alan Ford's satire of a professional ham, *Thin Ice*, leaves a sour taste in the mouth



## ■ PROM

Music director Mark Wigglesworth brings the BBC National Orchestra of Wales to the Proms

Marcus Binney finds power and glory — and even humour — on show at Westminster Abbey

## History tour by time machine



First impressions count. At 9.30 on a Friday morning, I and every other visitor to Westminster Abbey received a royal welcome. The main west doors were wide open, the inner glass doors folded back and fresh air and light flooded into the nave.

There are no ticket barriers inside the entrance, only an invitation to contribute £1. You can in fact explore the nave without paying at all, but I chose the sound guide, a tape with headphones, which for £5 included admission to the Royal Chapels, and the Confessor's Shrine. It was worth every penny.

This was no dry-as-dust lecture on pointed arches, but a stirring walk through British history, with snatches of good music and resonant prose, and, of course, the gory details which tourists down the ages have always relished.

The tour begins at the grave of the Unknown Warrior, a project which caught the imagination of a war-torn world. The body of the unknown soldier was buried here in 1920 in soil brought from France in the presence of the King and four Queens, (Queen Mary, Queen Alexandra, and the Queens of Spain and Norway) with a guard of honour of a hundred VCs.

Next came the first of many touches of humour: the story of the 17th-century dean who teased Ben Jonson about a place in Poets' Corner. "Two feet by two feet is enough for me," replied the impoverished dramatist. "You shall have it," replied the dean — and Jonson was buried standing up.

The vergers at the abbey are well versed in dealing with us zombies. "You can slip past this group on the left," one whispered helpfully in my ear. A moment later, a solemn voice boomed out, announcing that every hour on the hour a priest would ascend the pulpit and invite us all to join in a brief prayer. Looking at the surging crowds, I wondered how I would find my way back to the nave in time. I need not have worried.

Every group in the abbey is getting a history lesson of their



On the abbey road: visitors queue up to visit one of the capital's most rewarding attractions, a fascinating journey through the nation's past

own. I listened in on a party from New England, led by a dapper grey-suited guide. This was strong republican stuff. "John and Sam Adams came from a family in Somerset that supported Cromwell against the King. Monmouth against the King. They fought the King in 1776 and supported Lincoln in 1861." He continued: "Oliver Cromwell bought a one-way ticket to Massachusetts but the King refused him permission to sail. That has to be the dumbest move in British history. He might have spent the rest of his life quietly farming."

Turning on the sound guide, the emotion and excitement of the Queen's Coronation came alive with the words of Archbishop Fisher. I was told how the transepts were filled with tier on tier of seats for spectators who had to spend many

hours in the abbey. What they discreetly omitted to mention were the large number of gin bottles found afterwards under the seats, left by members of the House of Lords. I learnt that while Henry VII had demanded a funeral free of "damnable pomp and outrageous magnificence", Cromwell had had it all, crown on head, sceptre and globe in hand, his body carried on an open coach adorned with plumes and banners. Two years later his body had been dug up by outraged Royalists, dragged to Tyburn, decapitated, and his head displayed on a spike.

Arriving at the Coronation Chair, I was not the only one wanting to see if the Stone of Scone was still in place beneath the seat. Quite what are the "elaborate precautions for its safety" made following its

theft in 1950 is a mystery. Does the floor open up to swallow intruders?

On the Confessor's tomb, my eyes were directed to the recesses for the sick to kneel and ask for the saint's intercession. I learnt of the golden cross and chain, discovered by Charles Taylor, "one of the singing men", after James II's Coronation. Espying a hole in the tomb, he put his hand in, pulled out the chain and then saw the saint's head "sound and firm, the upper and the lower jaws full of teeth". James II had the old coffin enclosed in the new one clamped with iron and it has remained undisturbed to this day.

In Poets' Corner I heard why Byron's monument was so late in coming ("his damnable aristocratic flippancy"); heard Alan Bennett read from *Alice in Wonderland*, with a

solo from Handel's *Messiah* providing the finale. I could have listened to it all again.

For a further charge of £2.50 I gained admission to the chapter house, the Pyx chamber and the museum. This seemed a little steep, until the two ladies in the Pyx chamber explained with great gusto how the six locks, introduced after a burglary of 1303, operated, even producing a key.

In the museum, I found the second Coronation Chair made for the joint crowning of William III and Mary II, every bit as covered in graffiti as the original. One remarkable exhibit was the wax effigy of the Duke of Buckingham, who died in Rome at the age of 19. Wax casts were taken of his face and hands before his body was shipped to Britain. The effigy is displayed in the

original glass case ordered by his mother.

To get the most out of the abbey and its numerous monuments and memorials, you need a second tour, official guidebook in hand. This will lead you to such curiosities as the tomb of Marshal Wade, famous for the Highland Roads he built after the '45 rebellion. "If you'd seen these roads before they were made/You would hold up your hands and bless Marshal Wade," runs the epitaph.

I left the abbey feeling I had had more than the Benedictine welcome promised by the dean. Rather an enthralling morning that every great building can and should provide for all its visitors.

Tomorrow: A Summer Snapshot of Blackpool Tower

## Packed chamber

IN THE first of two consecutive concerts this week, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales was conducted by Mark Wigglesworth, in his first Prom appearance since becoming their music director. His programme offered one of his favoured calling-cards in Schoenberg's first Chamber Symphony, but in the second of the full-orchestra versions the composer made in 1935.

By enriching the work not just with extra instruments but with added harmonies and melodic lines, he inevitably risked making its density of texture sound congested, but it was to the conductor's credit that he exercised a masterful control in giving the

BBC NOW/  
Wigglesworth  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

work's outlines a welcome clarity of musical purpose. His players responded with a wealth of contrasting timbre that made the taut design spacious as well as eloquent.

It was preceded by a suite from Wagner's *Die Meistersinger* that began with chunks from Act III, including a lulling Dance of the Apprentices and a resplendent Entry of the Masters, then disconcertingly reverted to the Prelude from Act I as a somewhat incongruous but stately and jubilant finale. It enabled the orchestra to display its warmth of string tone, keenly edged woodwind and opulent brass.

They were joined in the second part by Stephen Hough as a buoyant soloist in Brahms's big-scale B-flat major Piano Concerto (No 2). Brisk tempos brought the performing time to under 45 minutes, a welcome reversion to an earlier tradition in place of the monumental approach latterly favoured. It displayed, in particular, the pianist's sturdy yet poetic figuration.

Only the romantic cello solo in the Andante movement seemed unduly reticent. Otherwise the orchestral content was effectively measured to the soloist's brio, not excluding a poignant sense of reverie when desired and leading to a light-hearted but still serious-minded final rondo.

NOEL GOODWIN

THEATRE: Playful Priestley takes on the arrogance of respectability; plus a sour evening with a cracked actor

Jude Kelly's revival of J. B. Priestley's Yorkshire farce has its ups and downs, but its first night opened with a nice, pointed trick. There was a long pompous rumble from some offstage drums, and several members of the audience leapt obediently to their feet. They wore the same glazed, brainwashed look I recall on the face of the all-American guy in *The Manchurian Candidate* who had only to see a particular playing card to become a deadly assassin. They were primed to stand to attention for *God Save the Queen* — and instead they found themselves looking rather fatuous as brass joined percussion in a forthright rendering of *On Ilkley Moor Bate 'At*.

What better introduction could there be to a play that may be seen as a comic version of Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* II, too, attacks respectability, arrogance and complacency, but in mischievous and sometimes hilarious style. It gets the likes of Dawn French's Clara Soppitt to behave herself self-importantly upright, so to speak, and then makes her look as silly as a royalist quivering to a jolly song about Yorkshire mating habits.

Clara is the most formidable of the three wives and three husbands who have come together to celebrate their silver wedding anniversaries. Her husband, Paul Copley's Herbert, cowers when she eyeballs him and, hands on massive hips, emits her trademark snarls and roars. But the other marriages have their imperfections. So, Roger Lloyd Pack's fungoid-faced Councilor Parker bullies and bores his wife, Annette Badland's Annie, and Gary Waldhorn's smooth, self-satisfied Alderman Helliwell is pretty offhand to his better half, Alison Steadman's Maria.

When We Are Married  
Chichester

At first you think that conventional married angst will prevail until these people's golden jubilees and beyond. Everything seems awesomely permanent and solid, from the Helliwells' plush gold-and-maroon drawing room to dresses that make the ladies look like brocade sofas. But the young choirmaster, the three men are ticking off for some minor moral indiscretion has embarrassing evi-

dence in his pocket: a letter from the cleric who presided over their joint weddings admitting he was not yet qualified for the job. These pillars of the local chapel and community appear to have been living in sin for 25 years.

Desperate attempts to cover up the painful facts duly fail. Home truths emerge, emotional adjustments are made. Worms turn, most entertainingly in the case of the Soppitts. That is because French is magnificently menacing, whether she is prowling about like a killer-rhino, or

## Picking the rusty wedlock



Unwedded bliss in Yorkshire: McKern, Chadwick, Lloyd Pack, French and Bryan

for a commercial. He is, surely, on the verge of making a packet if he can just look straight into the camera and crush an ice-cream cone into his face. His chance of glory, however, comes to a sticky end as a fellow actor loses his rag and wrecks havoc.

Ford obviously knows Charlie's grungy terrain like the back of his hand. His satire of a professional ham, clearly going to the dogs while still fancying himself as a flash

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BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## A bad day's night in luvviedom

Thin Ice  
Old Red Lion, NI

Charlie struggles into his underpants and stumbles to the bathroom. Massaging his sagging ego, he pats his solar plexus and promptly chucks up in the basin.

It is mostly downhill from here. The traffic is at a crawl round smelly King's Cross. One cab driver waves gratefully before Charlie's red Cortina is unceremoniously written off on Essex Road. Bolstered by vague recognition from the plets at

the bus stop, Charlie is unfortunately soon spotted by a raving mad old flame. She pursues him, screaming blue murder, on to a jam-packed double-decker.

Charlie is next found playing it cool, an old hand, in a mass audition

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# On fishing and fidelity

Rodney  
Milnes on a  
marriage  
bound together  
by music

Many marriages are incompensable to outsiders; even insiders, close friends of both, found it hard to fathom the marriage of Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya — or rather marriages, since they divorced in 1933 at the time of Weill's first period of exile in Paris, and quietly remarried in New York. Even the constituents are unlikely: Weill, son of a North German cantor whose family must have found it hard to accept the Roman Catholic, Viennese small-time actress with a lurid past even before their first marriage in 1926.

Lenya's interest in the pleasures of the flesh was always well developed, and she was serially and openly unfaithful. So was Weill, but more discreetly — a pattern reflected by the book's editors — though his attachment to a (still) anonymous woman in Hollywood seems to have occasioned the greatest danger to their marriage: the crisis surrounding Lenya's threat to move out of their home near New York may have contributed to the composer's shockingly early death from heart trouble in 1950. He was only as old as the century.

The fact that Lenya was married and widowed three more times, each time to a homosexual with a drink problem, and devoted the rest of her life to the tireless promotion of Weill's works suggests that what bound them together as much as anything else was music.

But this impeccably edited, generously illustrated volume is about Weill's and Lenya's lives rather than the music: they were together during the collaboration with Brecht and the creation of the major Broadway shows. Weill's early letters confirm that music came before marriage; no wonder the sparky Lenya became restless. But the copious post-divorce letters are depressingly fascinating. Lenya had run off with the tenor, common and compulsive gambler Otto von Pasetti; Weill, struggling to earn a living in the first years of exile in Paris and London, profoundly de-



Pleasures of the flesh led to a marriage out of key: Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya at the piano in Brook House (1942)

**SPEAK LOW (WHEN YOU SPEAK LOVE):**  
The Letters of Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya  
Edited by Lys Symonette and Kim Kowalko  
Hamish Hamilton, £20  
ISBN 0 241 13264 9

pressed, subject to nervous prostration, plays her like an expert angler, a particularly juicy salmon, pretending to believe in Pasetti's "systems," sending her money, even arranging for Pasetti to join her in the cast of *The Seven Deadly Sins*. It worked. Pasetti vanished — you can sense the relief when Weill can finally refer to him as "a

swindler" — and Weill arranged for Lenya to join him in Max Reinhardt's epic pageant *The Eternal Road* on Broadway, passport for both of them to America. His friends may have been mystified, but he knew better.

The American letters comes in three substantial chunks, twice when Weill was working in Hollywood, once when Lenya was on a nationwide tour in a play by Maxwell Anderson. The tone is delightfully relaxed and warm, splattered with cheerful obscenities (one or two watered down by the editors), full of gossip about Fritz Lang, the Lunis, Helen Hayes, Sam and Bella Spewack and other movie and musical luminaries. Weill's accounts of trying to force Ira

Gershwin to get down to work on "my first Broadway opera," *Firebrand of Florence* (it flopped), are wryly amusing. There's an epic moment when Weill lets drop that he is considering making Brecht a monthly allowance, which elicits first a telegram and then a long letter from Lenya telling him why he should do no such thing. She knew her Brecht.

The picture that emerges, with Lenya on the road scouring antique shops for bric-a-brac to decorate their house, is of unclouded domestic bliss — misleading in the event, but throughout a fair amount of reading between the lines is necessary. Lenya is of course an outside character painted in primary colours. Weill remains elusive, at once shy and

absolutely sure of himself, charitable and sharp, worldly-wise yet oddly child-like, essentially serious but with a perky sense of humour. His determination to become exclusively American is reflected in his impatience with the Hollywood exiles — the Manns, Klemperer, Schoenberg — and the fact that all his friends were American. And what emerges strongly is that he regarded his Hollywood work as merely marking time: once the war was over, he would return to serious composition in directions suggested by *Street Scene* (1947) and *Lost in the Stars* (1949). So in 1950 he had only just started. He died far, far too young.

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto on Europe's past

## Gems among the rocks of orthodoxy

**A HISTORY OF MODERN EUROPE**  
By John Merriman  
Norton, £18.95  
ISBN 0 393 96885 5

A rich American lady recently attempted to climb Everest with a coffee percolator. There ought to be a silly section in the records for historians who try to climb Parnassus with a textbook. Because textbooks are written for captive student-readerships they tend to get written badly.

Because they have to satisfy deadly course requirements they are usually conventional and dull — fossils in rocks of orthodoxy. Because of the assumption that their readers are brutes, they waste time telling you that Immanuel Kant was a German philosopher and Vichy is in France. Luring scholars out of specialist burrows, they trap mistakes and ensnare wild judgments. They sacrifice the beauty and power of prose to "clarity," which is transparent, and "accessibility," which is unreadable.

John Merriman's contribution has all the vices of the genre but it has heroic virtues too. This is a book of briefcase-busting, depth-charge weight. It has over 1,500 pages — enough paper for the most fastidious castaway, enough ballistic powder for the feeblest student lout. The author has genuinely tried to make it better and brighter than its predecessors. He shares valuable scraps of evidence. He includes fragments of the lives of other textbooks leave out: musicians, scientists, women, children, prostitutes and pornographers. There are some sustained passages of deftly handled material, especially in the pages on the late 19th and very early 20th centuries. The uniform pace wears the reader, but the writer, at least, never flags. For sheer ambition, Merriman deserves success: most academic specialists nowadays are busy digging ever narrower furrows in ever more dedicated soil: it takes courage and vision for a professor to try to clamber out of the mud.

Despite these important merits, I fear no one except reviewers will read this book. Life is too short. The first unfamiliar idea I found was on page 917, the first joke on page 1,307. I admired

learn what Merriman thinks Europe is.

Most of the book is devoted to relatively long passages about obvious countries and even some of them are ignored for vast stretches. Russia is hardly mentioned in the first three hundred pages. No concept of Europe emerges. No context for Europe in world history appears. The publishers have been unapologetically slack: they have encumbered the pictures with captions which are often wrong and usually worthless. They have let



Vices and virtues: breakthrough in the Chunnel (1990)

Maddeningly, quotations are attributed to "one observer" or "a contemporary" — presumably in order to spare American undergraduates from the embarrassment of difficult foreign names. Chronology and classification are meaninglessly telescoped. Gunpowder, muskets and rifles for instance, are crammed into two paragraphs ostensibly about 13th and 14th century warfare. The Crimean War is crushed into a section on Victorian Britain. The breathless last chapters on postwar Europe read almost like newscasters' headlines, with no story followed for long enough to make sense.

The author's judgments are frank but not fearless: he likes Whigs, democrats and free-market economists, hates slaves, imperialists and fanatics. Yet we never

Merriman refer in his preface to "these two volumes" while publishing the book in one. They ought to have been stripped of the clichés, mixed metaphors and stylistic infelicities of an author who is not a professional writer. Nor can anyone writing at this length on such a broad theme avoid howlers without editorial help.

On this showing, there is no place on Parnassus for John Merriman. He will continue to share low slopes with fellow-historians: there are more of us in the world today than ever. Yet between us we write fewer books than other people want to read. If we want to haul ourselves higher we shall have to discard all the old rope. And textbooks are among the unnecessary encumbrances we ought to be prepared to shed.

## Curiouser and curiouser

Lynne Truss

**LEWIS CARROLL: A Biography**  
By Michael Bakewell  
Heinemann, £20  
ISBN 0 434 04579 9

**LEWIS CARROLL: A Portrait with Background**  
By Donald Thomas  
John Murray, £25  
ISBN 0 7195 3327 7

When Alice's Adventures in Wonderland was first published in 1865, it received a rather double-edged tribute from one of its reviewers. So struck was the writer by Alice's charming nonsense and humour that he declared, "One can hardly help reading it through."

Alice, of course, did not deserve such faint praise, but biographers of its author should be pleased with it. As Virginia Woolf once brutally pointed out, "The Rev C. L. Dodgson had no life"; a biography which carries you to the end is therefore a marked success. These new books (both pluckily prepared in the teeth of Morton Cohen's monumental biography published last year) qualify on these meagre terms at least.

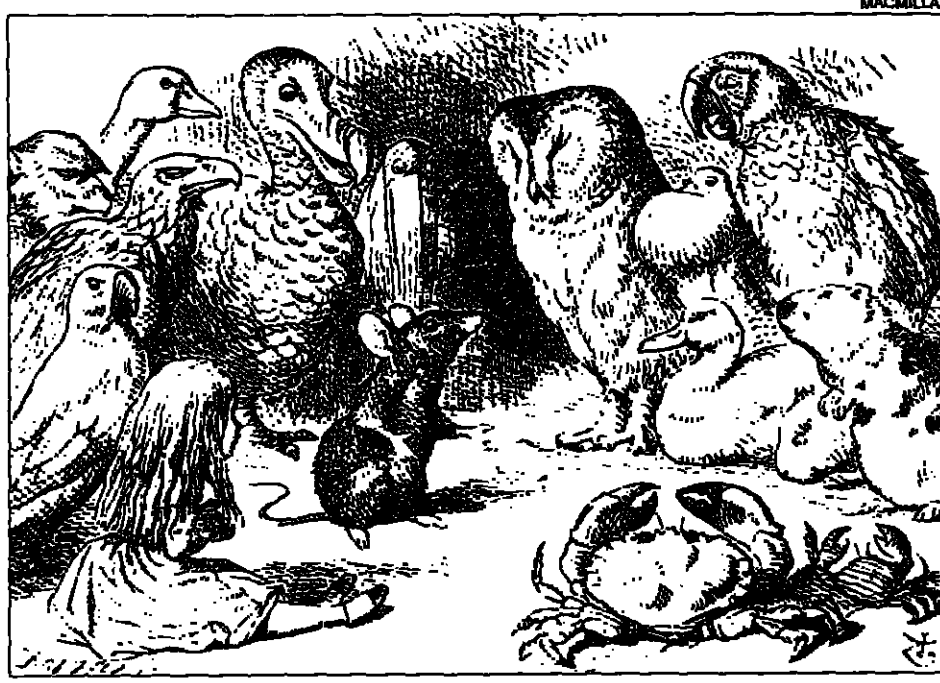
Dodgson is like the elusive snark of his famous poem — pursued by strangely compelled people who don't know what they are looking for,

whose maps don't help. "Forks and Hope" are as useful as you might imagine on this quest; nevertheless Donald Thomas arms himself with all manner of forks — raking the Victorian collective psyche for child prostitution and Oxford political intrigue (he's very good on this); while Michael Bakewell trusts to Dodgson's imagination, believing that if enough care is employed, this intensely peculiar man can be ultimately matched to his in-

tensely peculiar work.

So these books are very different. Bakewell is a good critic: stealthy, sensitive to Dodgson's infinite shades of grey, while Thomas is a colourist who sometimes prefers a splash of violet or orange quite unrelated to the big picture, for the forgivable reason of wanting some narrative excitement.

Dodgson had a happy childhood at home: so much is clear. His school days at Rugby were miserable, and his life-long sojourn at Christ Church, Oxford, was his fate rather than his ambition. And that's about it. As the White Knight's poem says, "I'll tell thee everything I can, there's little to relate." — and the little to relate here includes 19 consecutive summers in Eastbourne, a few child-friends, lots of pernickery wrangles, and in a startlingly uninteresting excursion to Russia. Under the nursery floor at the Croft Rectory in Yorkshire was dis-



Between reality and dreams: Sir John Tenniel's engraving of Alice in Wonderland (1865)

covered a block of wood on which the young Charlie supposedly wrote, "And we'll wander through the wide world, and chase the buffalo" — but this exuberant intention was surely never literal, sad to say.

Bakewell is spot-on, in fact,

when he insists that Dodgson throughout his life re-invented reality to make it his own — when he parodied a poem, took a picture of an "undraped" child, constructed unguessable conundrums, put Alice into a story, or closed his ears to profanity, he was

simply asserting the power of his own imagination to keep the world safe from any real buffalo who might possibly chase him back.

The question of Dodgson's interest in little girls remains problematic, not to say sticky. Thomas makes useful points

about the mid-Victorian age of consent (12), but whenever he mentions the child prostitutes operating in the Haymarket just yards from Dodgson's favourite hotel, there is some how an amusing background noise of head banging against brick. Bakewell cautions the reader not to jump to sensational conclusions; he believes that Dodgson was in love with his own childhood, and that the famous break with the Liddells came about not because he asked for Alice's hand, but because he took umbrage himself. He was not banished from the Deanery; offended by Mrs Liddell's suspicions, he stayed away. As a solution to the most famous mystery in his life, it certainly fits in perfectly with his known character.

And his character is very well known by now. Bakewell sums him up: "Fussy and easily offended, old-maidish and excessively prudish... he carried himself bolt upright, was deaf in one ear, suffered from housemaid's knee, and had a pronounced stammer. He was such a dull tutor that his pupils organised a round robin asking to be transferred to another teacher." But the words "and yet" are never far away with Lewis Carroll. He

is like one of his own puzzles: logical, but only to himself. Despite all his clerical "fuss budgeting" he was also a very funny writer — breezy, even — who delighted children with games and tricks. The little girls really loved to visit him; they were not just being polite.

One wonders whether, with madness so big a factor in the Alice books, sexuality was the only thing Dodgson kept at bay with his "pillow problems" and perpetual mental invention. His uncle, Skeffington Lutwidge, a commissioner in lunacy, was killed by a madman — and it was after a visit with Skeffington that Dodgson concluded that lunacy was the confusion of reality and dream — a distinct with which he certainly had problems himself. While it is true that his works have been psycho-analysed quite enough already (Alice as a symbolic penis takes the biscuit here), it still seems odd that biographers turn infrequently to books that reveal so much. Perhaps they remember the fate of the snark-finder: he softly and silently vanished away. With a quarry as elusive as Lewis Carroll, however, that's a risk you've got to take.

## PHOTOSALES

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## Hot behind the curtain

Michele Roberts

**THE CURIOUS ROOM**  
By Angela Carter  
Corgi, £20  
ISBN 0 7011 6308 0

Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*: fictionalised biographies of parricidal Victorian painter Richard Dadd and of Ronald Firbank, the Edwardian novelist; a new version of Wedekind's *Lulu*; a screenplay based on a real-life matricide in New Zealand, as well as the screenplays for *The Magic Toyshop* and *The Company of Wolves*.

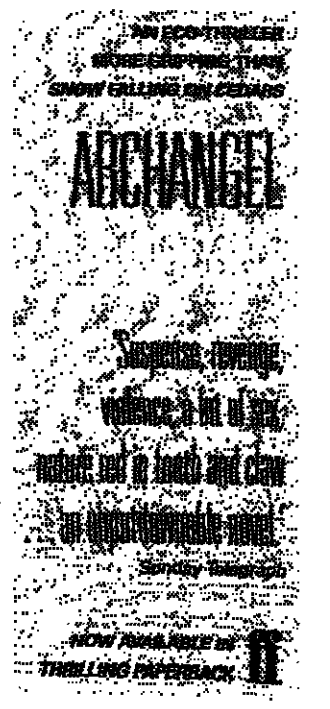
Perhaps this collection will be of most use to students of Carter's work rather than the ordinary reader. While it's good to know that a collected edition of her works is available, most of us don't read

play texts for fun. What's interesting about these scripts, though, is the evidence they furnish of Carter's highly visual imagination. She wasn't going to wait for directors and stage designers to bring her visions to life. She knew all about making images work in theatre. The proof is here, on the printed page.

Writers' reputations often dip in the years immediately following their deaths, before reassessment is made. I had no doubt that some critics will feel hot and bothered by Carter's delight in skipping between all kinds of different literary and dramatic forms. Just as it was impossible to pigeonhole her as a feminist or feminist writer, so it's difficult to argue that she should have stuck to novels and short stories. Clearly, she relished experiment and change, aesthetically as well as politically. She joked all the time. She

invented a new womanly voice, just as she had no ultra modern dandyish concern with language and story shape, but she was always subversive. Holy cows, feminist or otherwise, were to be treated with irreverence.

One of the pleasures of reading this book is watching a writer's imagination translate itself into visual and aural effects. We're allowed backstage, to peep at the wondrous machines of illusion, to follow Carter's relish of technology. Mother Goose or the story-spinning grandmother in the corner by the fire, lived on, for her, through radio: "In its most essential sense... radio retains the atavistic lure, the atavistic power, of voices in the dark, and the writer who gives the words to these voices retains some of the authority of the most antique tellers of tales." Had she lived, I'm sure Angela Carter would have been one of the first explorers of virtual reality. In her imagination, she'd got there already.





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RACING: DERBY-WINNING JOCKEY GAINS ANOTHER MAJOR SUCCESS IN SPARKLING SEASON

## First Island shines in Sussex Stakes

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

EVEN the best friends of the identical Hills twins have trouble telling the two jockeys apart, but their contrasting fortunes at Goodwood yesterday were there for all to see after the two principal races of the day.

Having won the Derby and King George this season, Michael can do no wrong and as the gaps appeared at the right time in the Sussex Stakes he came from last on First Island to win the group one prize and so become the first jockey since Lester Piggott in 1977 to complete such an august treble.

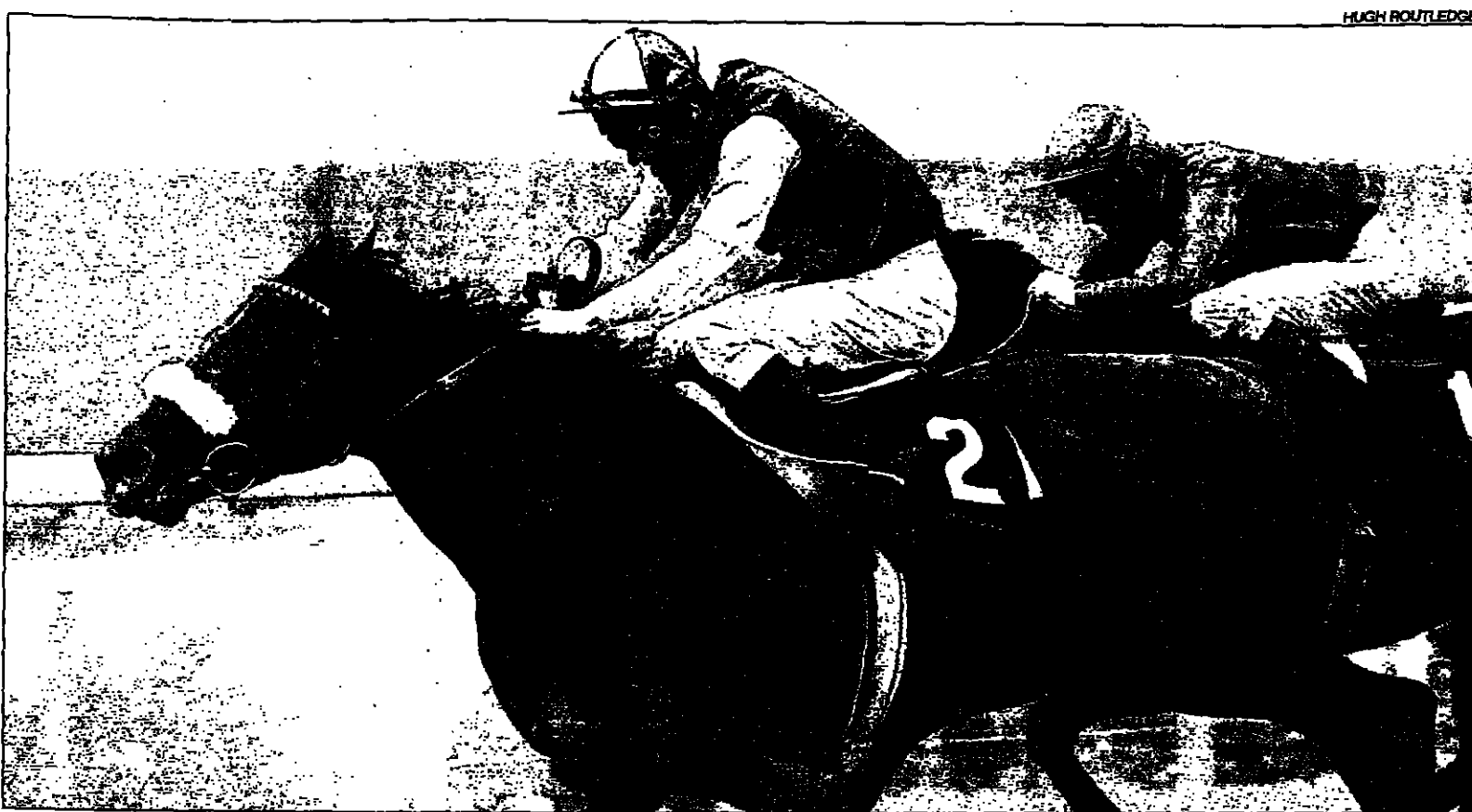
While he enjoyed another bumper pay-day, Richard, his

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BEND WAVY (5.50 Goodwood)  
Next best: Easycall (2.45 Goodwood)

younger brother by half an hour, was landed with an unwanted holiday after the stewards took exception to his riding of the strongly fancied Sahm in the Lanson Champagne Stakes and gave him a seven day ban for irresponsible riding. Sahm, who had finished second in the Paul Cole-trained Putra, was relegated to last.

Throughout this meeting a rather too enthusiastic racecourse announcer has deemed it right in between races to regularly promise spectators there were still many "good things" to come. With the first nine favourites at the meeting having been vanquished, most punters would have been happy to find one good thing.



First Island, ridden by Hills, shows a fine turn of foot to beat Charnwood Forest in the group one Sussex Stakes at Goodwood yesterday

but in the Sussex Stakes they clearly believed they had located the increasingly rare specimen in the shape of Charnwood Forest, the four-length winner of the Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot.

The "professional" punters weighed in with a confidence gained from championship successes on Shaamit and Pentire, had decided deliberately to follow Kinane and the favourite. As Charnwood Forest made his move, First Island travelled ominously well in his slipstream.

The closing stages were almost a replica of the King George as Hills, again wearing the colours of Mollers Racing, cruised up alongside the leader a furlong out before quickening clear.

The late Eric and Budgie Moller enjoyed their fair share of success as owners, but nothing compared to the triumphs of horses financed by a trust set up to survive them. However, their forethought has contributed to Geoff Wragg enjoying the most successful week in his distin-

guished career — and the glory days are far from over. "He's improving all the time. We will keep him in training next year, and I would not be afraid to run him over 1½ miles," Wragg said. In the meantime, the Juddmonte International Stakes at York is a possibility along with the Irish Champion Stakes.

Some of the best two-year-olds to have made the racecourse this season lined up for the Champagne Stakes and Putra earned quotes ranging from 14-1 to 20-1 for next

season's 2,000 Guineas after showing a good turn of foot to land the spoils. It is difficult to assess the form, given the slow early gallop, along with the trouble encountered by Sahm.

However, Willie Carson, who would have ridden Sahm if he had recovered in time from his bad fall at Newmarket last week, was surprised by his defeat. "I am very disappointed. Before the race I thought that was my 2,000 Guineas horse for next year. Maybe the winner is a very good horse."

2.15: In a race with limited betting appeal, Ela-Yie-Mou looks to have sound each-way prospects. Richard Hughes, who won on Luca Cumani's runner at Nottingham in May, is back on board and it could be worth forgiving the Kris colt a disappointing run when stepping back in trip at Salisbury last time. Infamous and Jazz King are closely matched on their run behind Arabian Story and should appreciate the extra quarter-mile.

2.45: This is a substandard running of the Richmond Stakes and there could be an upset. Raphane, second to Topsy Creek in the Norfolk Stakes and subsequent winner of the Curragh Stakes, is the form choice but does not look the easiest of rides. Alan Jarvis is double-handed with Roman Imp and Proud Native, the latter being preferred after winning the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom 54 days ago. Although Easycall needs to improve to win this group two race, Brian Meehan's speedy colt looks up to it after impressive victories at Leicester and Newmarket. Today's extra furlong should hold no terrors.

## Bend Wavy can roll over rivals

GOODWOOD BBC2

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3.20: A strong pace looks likely with the front-running Grey Shot returning to action. A reproduction of the form which saw him run Double Trigger to a head at Ascot back in early May would give Ian Balding's stayer a squeak but he has been a shade disappointing in his two subsequent runs.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Lear White has made the frame in decent group races this year but is far from sure to see out this trip and this could turn into a battle between Kalabo and the progressive Persian Punch. Kalabo, third to Pentire and Classic Cliche in the King Edward VII Stakes at Ascot last year, has looked as good as ever this term when winning at Chester and Newmarket and there is every prospect he will improve over this trip.

3.50: Missile is likely to be a short-priced favourite and while he holds an obvious chance after his runaway success at Newmarket (for which he only has a 7lb penalty) the expected odds in an 18-runner handicap justify looking for value elsewhere. Almuhimim, twice a winner of decent seven-furlong handicaps, was denied a clear run in the Bunbury Cup last time and should appreciate today's trip. However, a tendency to start slowly is a worry round here and Bend Wavy is the choice. He won at Beverley with something to spare last month having previously failed to stay here over an extra quarter-mile.

RICHARD EVANS

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9/4 Missile 20/1 How Long  
9/2 Tregaron 25/1 Khayrapour  
6/1 Almuhimim 25/1 New Century  
9/1 Bend Wavy 28/1 Serious  
12/1 Desert Green 33/1 Double Diamond  
14/1 Prince Babar 33/1 Green Green Desert  
14/1 Sue's Return 40/1 Autumn Affair  
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2.00 O'Brien's Dart, 2.30 Le Shuttle, 3.05 Song Of Silex, 3.35 Lady Godiva, 4.10 Young Annabel, 4.45 Mazilla.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:  
2.00 NEVER THINK TWICE

Our Newmarket Correspondent:  
4.10 Young Annabel.

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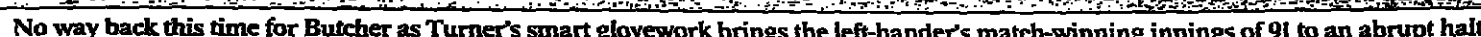


**BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT**

To illustrate the point, they compared the workload of key England and Australian players during the 12 months ending on March 31 this year. Michael Atherton was engaged for 214 days, compared to only 135 playing and touring days for his counterpart, Mark Taylor, and while Dominic Cook, England's prime bowler, totalled 239 days, Shane Warne's aggregate was 127. This is a stark revelation. Anyone doubting the need for Afield's report, or searching for a plausible reason why England have fallen behind in international terms, need look no further.

Acfield, having pointed out that the responsibility for the international side is "fragmented", proposes that a nine-man body should handle all such matters, including the appointments of selectors, captain and coach. Tours, believed by the working party to be too long, would also come under the banner of the management committee.

To illustrate the point, they compared the workload of key England and Australian players during the 12 months ending on March 31 this year. Michael Atherton was engaged for 214 days, compared to only 135 playing and touring days for his counterpart, Mark Taylor, and while Dominic Cook, England's prime bowler, totalled 239 days, Shane Warne's aggregate was 127. This is a stark revelation. Anyone doubting the need for Afield's report, or searching for a plausible reason why England have fallen behind in international terms, need look no further.



By ALAN LEE

**CROSS-PENNINE** dreams of the Roses counties meeting at Lord's for the first time in 59 knockout finals were dashed again yesterday, when the draw for the semi-finals of the NatWest Trophy emulated the Benson and Hedges Cup by pairing Lancashire and Yorkshire. Cruelly, the venue will once more be Old Trafford.

**SOMERSET, 225 (S.C. Esplanade, S2, P.D.)**  
 Bowler S2 B/P Jumper 4 for 46

**SURFURY**

A J Bicknell	bat B Coadell	0
A J Bicknell	bat B Coadell	0
D J Smeeth	not out	91
G P Thomas	bat Coadell	13
A D Brown	bat Coadell	41
A J Hollis	not out	45
B P Jumper	not out	6
Extras (lb 11, w 13, nb 2)		26
<b>Total (5 wkts, 52.5 overs)</b>		<b>226</b>

B C Coadell, M P Budge, R M Pearson, and E J Benjamin did not bat

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-1, 2-5, 3-34, 4-117  
 5-204

**BOWLING:** Coadell, 12-2-34-3, Rose 12-1-49-4, Trumbo 12-2-38-4, Hayward, 5-3-30-4, B. S. C. 12-1-19-1

**Man of the match:** M. B. Smeeth

**Manover:** H. D. Burt and A. L. Smith

Butcher has made 13 scores of more than fifty this season. In all forms of cricket, and must be in the selectors' thoughts for a tour this winter, either to Australia with the A team, or possibly as a junior member of the full team in Zimbabwe and New Zealand. If they are sensible, they will surely look to include a couple of younger, unproven players.

Picking up on 126 for four, needing 100, Butcher and Hollisake swiftly took their partnership to 87 before Turner's smart glove-work ended it. Caddick had bowled out his quota by then, ending with the thoroughly sad fig-

[illegible]

## HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN

The transfer line will open at 6am each Tuesday and will close at 6pm the following Monday. All transfers made during this period will be applied to team selectors' teams prior to the commencement of the next first-class match (transfer times may be altered slightly to accommodate a schedule of first-class matches and prior notification will be published in The Times). Transfers may only be made by telephone by calling 0800 000 001.

team selector may transfer up to two players in his/her team per transfer period. Whether you are transferring one or two players, your team must be rendered correct according to the format of five batsmen, one all-rounder, one wicketkeeper and four bowlers and including one visiting star and one overseas player (but no more than one of either) by the end of the call. You may check your team score and position in ITC by calling the ITC Check Line on 0904 334 330.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

DE K Cooper (305)	5	0	5	0	105	0
DE M Coopers (309)	7	0	0	0	0	0
DP Davies (307)	71	171	13	13	311	0
DP Davies (310)	171	171	13	13	412	0
R P Cover (303)	134	223	44	44	412	103
J M De La Pena (310)	0	0	0	0	20	0
R R Dabbs (311)	0	0	0	0	0	0
R R Dabbs (312)	0	1	0	2	41	0
M D Diamond (313)	0	0	0	0	0	0
M D Diamond (314)	0	0	0	0	0	0
S W K Ellis (315)	14	0	0	8	0	172
S W K Ellis (316)	29	29	29	29	0	0
A R C F Fearn (317)	164	0	29	0	684	0
S H F Feltz (318)	164	0	37	44	79	889
S H F Feltz (319)	164	0	37	44	79	889
D Gough (320)	483	0	39	51	1243	198
J R Green (321)	14	0	6	8	134	0
J C H Harty (322)	2	2	11	17	0	0
G M Hamilton (323)	0	1	0	4	81	0
A J Harter (324)	75	259	36	38	736	888
M P L Harty (325)	298	37	37	0	171	0
D W Harty (326)	154	50	27	111	864	1707
E J Henderson (327)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G I G Harty (328)	0	0	0	0	0	0
A P Higgins (329)	0	0	0	0	0	0
R R Ingleson (330)	369	0	31	30	865	1010
R R Ingleson (331)	369	0	31	30	865	1010
P W Jarvis (332)	164	228	19	17	544	848
P W Jarvis (333)	164	228	19	17	544	848
G R Jones (334)	9	0	13	13	237	230
N M Kendrick (335)	34	9	12	0	274	0
G S Mervin (336)	0	0	0	0	0	0
J I O Keir (337)	90	0	1	0	90	0
A K Khan (338)	0	0	0	0	0	0
M P L Lafferty (339)	112	0	13	0	160	0
R J Kiley (340)	0	0	0	0	0	0
A Kumble (341)	94	0	0	0	372	0
M P L Lafferty (342)	112	0	13	0	160	0
J Lewis (343)	0	0	0	11	314	0
J O Lewis (344)	304	31	42	42	1734	2220
D E Malcolm (345)	85	0	47	11	1009	2260
A A Malandri (347)	7	0	0	0	0	0
A A Malandri (348)	138	34	27	0	678	1134
R S C Martin (349)	20	0	1	1	0	0
S M Millum (352)	168	0	16	13	468	658
D J Milne (353)	310	225	47	33	1250	1633
D J Milne (354)	310	225	47	33	1250	1633
T A Minton (355)	68	18	13	23	328	448
P J Mower (356)	142	0	19	19	522	0
P J Mower (357)	142	0	19	19	522	0
J Omond (358)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G J Parsons (359)	176	119	26	0	696	598
R M Pearson (361)	106	0	25	43	306	446
R M Pearson (362)	106	0	25	43	306	446
C P Phillips (363)	100	0	5	0	200	0
R A Pick (364)	68	0	0	0	208	0
R A Pick (365)	154	0	0	0	208	0
A C S Piggot (366)	0	0	0	0	0	0
V J Piles (367)	0	0	0	0	0	0
A J Piles (368)	0	0	0	0	0	0
R P Piles (369)	141	38	0	0	134	559
M A Robinson (370)	0	0	0	0	0	0
D R S Sells (371)	36	165	11	6	686	166
Societas Muntz (372)	94	0	0	0	234	0
B N Schaff (373)	14	0	0	0	182	0
P J Seale (374)	0	0	0	0	0	0
D D Schroeder (375)	0	0	0	0	0	0
K F Sherrin (376)	3	0	0	0	23	0
J Sherrin (377)	0	0	0	0	0	0
K J Sherrin (378)	120	10	19	18	740	170
C E W Silverwood (379)	172	222	32	48	832	142

The manager of the month in the *Times* Interactive Team Cricket competition is John Eaton, of Brentwood, Essex, who recorded the highest points total in July.

His team, Eaton Goats 2, comprises: G A Hick, G P Thorpe, A McGrath, A J Hollioake, S G Law, J P Stephenson, K M Krieken, D J Mills, D Gough, A M Smith and M J McCague.

The prize comes in two parts: a Kent & Curwen single-breasted blazer, a Kent & Curwen long-sleeved cricket sweater and an official England T-shirt and sunhat, plus a PACE satellite

**DRAW**

**SEMI-FINALS**  
Lancashire v Yorkshire  
Surrey v Essex  
*Matches to be played on August 13*

eshire. I would have preferred the match to be at Headingley but I am still confident."

So he should be. Yorkshire are playing compelling cricket and if they had won the Benson semi-final, as logic dictated they should, they might now be contemplating a lift at all four trophies. As it is, they still have much to motivate them, not least the prospect that their inspirational Australian, Michael Bevan, should now see out the season with the probability of Australia's one-day series in Sri Lanka being a victim of terrorist threats. This would also apply to Stuart Law, who made his eleventh century of the season for Essex in their quarter-final win.

Yorkshire moved gently down the Sussex coast from Dover to Eastbourne yesterday and face a critical five days in their quest for the championship and Sunday League titles. The marquees will be up at Canterbury for the festival week and, unlike last year, when the Kent members lived a well-justified dread of the wooden spoon, they can now lay claim to the daydream of the championship between luncheon courses. Worcestershire are the visitors today, and a chap named Hick may feel he needs a few pins.

Leicestershire will be without their captain, Whitaker, and strike bowler, Mills. Against the traditional foe of Northamptonshire at Grace Road. These are untimely intrusions on their title bid but, with Surrey not engaged, victory this week would put them into an enviable position, still with a game in hand and most of the other

lish and decoder with six months' free subscription to Sky Sports.

Eaton Goats 2 also leads the main competition which has been dominated by the Eaton Goats teams. Eaton Goats 3 is in third place and Eaton Goats is not far behind in fifth.

The main challenger to this trio is Scoffshire A, entered by P Schofield, which is placed second. The team is: A J Hollioake, G P Thorpe, S G Law, G A Gooch, A McGrath, R C Grani, K M Krikken, D Gough, S J E Brown, J P Taylor and D L Millos.

**TEAM**  
TEAM DISCIPLINE  
**60930**

MUN UTD	MILTON
LEEDS	LINDA
FLOPOD	WILLIAM
EVERTON	TOMMY
ARSENAL	BOBBY
SHEFF	STEVE
	PHILIP







## ATLANTA '96: THE COMPLETE GUIDE

The women who play handball, a sport that made its first Olympic appearance at the 1936 Berlin Games and has been described as a cross between football and basketball, have reason to believe they are not getting equal treatment with the men. The inferiority complex, which starts with there being 12 men's teams but only eight for women, has been heightened by the appearances of dignitaries. While the royal families of Spain and Sweden cheered their respective men's teams to victories, and the likes of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, and Bill Campbell, the mayor of Atlanta, attended other men's matches, VIPs have been conspicuous by their absence from the women's matches. The International Handball Federation is trying to make amends, with Erwin Lanc, the president, deciding yesterday to hold court with the women, and announcing that, at the 2000 Games, 12 women's teams will be allowed to compete. **CL**

Twenty-one promising young athletes are in Atlanta as guests of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the winners of a draw among those who took part in the governing body's world athletics day this year. Each knew they would receive free flights, accommodation and stadium tickets but there was a surprise waiting for them at lunch on Tuesday. They were joined by Michael Johnson, on his day off between winning the 400 metres on Monday and starting out in the 200 metres yesterday. Ato Boldon, the bronze medal-winner in the 100 metres, and Jackie Joyner-Kersey, twice the Olympic heptathlon champion. Each of them recounted how they had come through adverse experiences and emphasised the importance of never giving up. "It has taken me ten years of work to win this gold medal," Johnson told them. "In 1993 I was injured and in 1992 I was sick. So I think this gold in 1996 speaks about my perseverance, about my hard training and about my will." **CL**

The women's hockey bronze medal play-off between Great Britain and Holland today is unlikely to produce a frenzy of goalmouth action. Mandy Davies, who plays in midfield for Britain, does not relish the prospect of meeting the Dutch. "We did not play particularly well against them," she said, referring to the 1-1 draw on July 21. "They played quite negatively and I don't think they like playing us." Britain's front-runners, Jane Sibbald and Mandy Nicholls, are likely to find that Holland are less generous than Argentina in allowing space in which to work the ball, particularly after Holland's 4-0 defeat by Australia on Tuesday night in the last match of the round-robin series. A tense midfield battle is therefore in prospect with not more than a goal separating the sides. Although the United States women are out of the medal hunt, crowds are gathering every day to watch the matches, even though some spectators admit that they find the modern game a little confusing. **SF**

## HOT SPOT

Roger Black conceded that he was always racing for second place in the 400 metres. Second, that is, to Michael Johnson. The Olympic timetable was rescheduled to allow Johnson to attempt the double of 200 and 400 metres. Stage one has been successfully completed. Tonight, he takes on Frederick Boldon and company, looking to make Olympic history. **TV: BBC1: from 10.30pm**

Not content with a gold medal at the Paralympics in 1992, wheelchair archer Paola Fantato, of Verona, took aim at her able-bodied rivals to make the Italy team for Atlanta. The 36-year-old, who contracted polio when she was eight months old, is now ranked thirtieth in the world. Her courage was roundly applauded at the Stone Mountain range, but Fantato was unhappy with her first-round exit. "I am feeling disillusioned because I wasn't able to reach my goals," she said. "The most important thing for me is to be recognised as an athlete. The score I had [in Atlanta] might well have won the gold [at the Paralympics]." Meanwhile, for Britain, topless archer Alison Williamson — she covered up for the Games but not the glossy magazines — advanced to the next round by defeating Olga Zabugina, of Belorussia, 157-142. Williamson, 24, says she enjoys juggling and playing trivia games. But when it comes to real ambition, she is very serious: "I want to marry rich," she said. **CL**

The heaviest man in the Games is Mark Henry, an American weightlifter who tipped the scales at almost 230st for the super-heavyweight class. For the Americans, he has been one of the most celebrated figures of the Olympics, with his size, cheery smile and occasional writing of verse. No American has received such attention when finishing fourteenth in the Games. However, when he reeled off the stage injured after his event on Monday, he was consoled by a lucrative future, something that weightlifters enjoy. He has a signed a ten-year multi-million dollar deal with the World Wrestling Federation (WWF), whose professional bouts draw huge televised ratings. Vince McMahon, the head of WWF, said: "With many individuals, we try to give them a little personality, they don't necessarily have. All Mark has to do is to be himself." Henry said: "To most people, I'll be a good guy. To the ones that treat me bad, they'll definitely think I'm a bad guy." **JS**

It's war out there in the synchronised swimming pool — and the defender of the piece has his mind on other things. Guy Druet, France's Sports Minister and Olympic 110 metres hurdles champion in 1976, decided six weeks ago to place an obstacle in the path of his nation's bathing ballerinas; he called a halt to a routine based on Schindler's List on grounds of taste, the Holocaust being not quite the thing one might wish to judge for artistic impression. Druet was busy handing out hurdling honours but is said to be satisfied that France will now perform to the rhythms of an American Indian war dance instead. They are not the only ones in combative mood. Ivan the Terrible will set the beat for Russia and Ninja for Japan. All a little hostile? Eva Riffel, of France, shrugged. But then what would she know? As their team handbook states, her friends call her Eva Vaporated because she's so scatterbrained. Despite trying hard, she can still be relied on for a gaffe. **CL**

## MEDAL TABLE

	Gold	Silver	Bronze		Gold	Silver	Bronze
United States	25	26	13	Denmark	1	0	1
Russia	18	14	10	Slovenia	1	0	0
China	12	15	8	Yugoslavia	1	0	0
France	13	6	13	Armenia	1	0	0
Italy	11	6	9	Costa Rica	1	0	0
Germany	10	12	19	Ecuador	1	0	0
Australia	7	9	18	Bulgaria	1	0	0
Poland	6	5	9	Latvia	1	0	0
Lithuania	5	5	5	Korea	1	0	0
Romania	4	4	4	Austria	1	1	1
Hungary	4	4	0	Ukraine	1	0	0
Greece	4	4	0	Spain	1	0	0
Cuba	3	3	7	Argentina	1	0	0
South Korea	3	3	3	Croatia	1	0	0
Japan	3	3	3	Barbados	1	0	0
Holland	3	3	3	Samoa	1	0	0
New Zealand	3	3	3	Slovenia	1	0	0
Switzerland	3	3	0	Uzbekistan	1	0	0
Ireland	3	3	0	Georgia	1	0	0
Turkey	3	3	0	Israel	1	0	0
Canada	3	3	0	Mexico	1	0	0
Holland	3	3	0	Moldova	1	0	0
Kazakhstan	3	3	0	Mongolia	1	0	0
Belgium	3	3	0	Morocco	1	0	0
Spain	3	3	0	Mozambique	1	0	0
South Africa	3	3	0	Nigeria	1	0	0
Ethiopia	3	3	0	Tanzania	1	0	0
Belorussia	3	3	0	Uganda	1	0	0
Great Britain	3	3	0				
Czech Republic	3	3	0				
Finland	3	3	0				
North Korea	3	3	0				

At end of Tuesday's events

Weather: sunny Humidity: 87% Temperature: 74F

## TODAY AT THE GAMES

All times BST

**ARCHERY:** Men's individual, third round (14.00), quarter-finals, semi-finals and final (19.00).  
**ATHLETICS:** Men: Decathlon, 110m hurdles (14.00); decathlon, discus (15.00 and 16.30); decathlon, pole vault (19.00); decathlon, javelin (22.30 and 23.45); 200m, semi-finals (23.10); 1,500m, semi-finals (23.55); 400m hurdles, final (00.25); 200m, final (01.00); 5,000m, semi-finals (01.15); decathlon, 1,500m (final event, 02.05). Women: High jump, qualifying (14.30); long jump (15.05); 200m, semi-finals (22.50); 1,500m, semi-finals (23.30); 200m, final (00.45).

**BADMINTON:** Men's and women's singles, finals; mixed doubles, final (all 14.00).

**BASEBALL:** Semi-finals (19.00 and 00.00).

**BASKETBALL:** Men's classification matches (15.00); women's classification matches (20.00); men's semi-finals (01.00 and 03.00).

**BOXING:** Semi-finals: Light-flyweight, bantamweight, lightweight, welterweight, middleweight, heavyweight (01.00).

**CANOEING:** Semi-finals: Men's 1,000m K1 (14.00); men's 1,000m C1 (14.30); women's 500m K4 (14.50); men's 1,000m K2 (15.10); men's 1,000m C2 (15.30); men's 1,000m K4 (15.50).

**CYCLING:** Individual time-trials: Men (13.30) and women (17.45).

**DIVING:** Men's platform, preliminaries (01.00), 19.00 — final round.

**EQUESTRIANISM:** Team showjumping (13.30 and 19.00 — final round).

**FOOTBALL:** Women's bronze medal match (23.00) and final (01.30).

**GYMNASTICS:** Women's individual rhythmic preliminaries (15.00); group rhythmic preliminaries (20.00).  
**HANDBALL:** Women's play-offs (15.00 and 17.00) and semi-finals (19.30 and 21.30).  
**HOCKEY:** Men's play-offs (19.30 and 16.00); women's bronze medal match (22.00) and final (00.30).

**TABLE TENNIS:** Men's singles, bronze medal match and final (21.30).

**TENNIS:** Men's singles, semi-finals (16.00); women's doubles, bronze medal match (20.00); men's doubles, bronze medal match (22.00).

**VOLLEYBALL:** Men's classification matches (13.00); women's play-offs (18.30) and semi-finals (00.30).

**WRESTLING:** Freestyle: Under 62kg, under 62kg, under 74kg, under 90kg and under 130kg, preliminaries (14.30) and classification matches (20.30).

**YACHTING:** Soling match races; men's and women's 470, final races (all 18.00).

## WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

BBC1

7.0-9.0am Olympic Breakfast, 9.05am-12.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 1.40-5.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 7.0-8.30pm Essential Olympics, 10.30pm-4.25am Olympic Grandstand.

BBC2

8.30-10.30pm Olympic Grandstand, 12.30-4.55am Olympic Grandstand.

Eurosport

24-hour coverage.

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